

Hello
My name is:
Elon's beloved
mascot, the Phoenix,
is getting a name
>> PAGE 12



TIME FOR A CHECK-UP
READ THE OPINION OF A LOCAL DOCTOR
ON THE NEW HEALTH CARE BILL

>> PAGE 6



THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2011 | VOLUME 37, EDITION 8

www.elon.edu/pendulum



Senior chemistry major Geoff Hall (left) and lab manager Paul Weller (right) perform a liquid helium fill of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectrometer. The engaged learning on Elon's campus is one of the ways faculty strive to ensure students learn, despite a recent study citing little knowledge gained during the college years.

JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer

National study finds 45 percent of students learn little in college

Becca Tynes
Senior Reporter

A college degree isn't always all it's cracked up to be. According to recent findings, a college degree does not necessarily mean a student has learned very much, if anything at all, during his or her time in college.

The research of more than 2,300 undergraduates found that 45 percent of college students show little improvement in critical thinking, complex reasoning and writing by the end of their sophomore years. Thirty-six percent of students show little improvement over four years of college.

The study is discussed in the recently published book, "Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses," written by Richard Arum of New York University and Josipa Roksa of the University of Virginia.

In the book, Arum and Roksa report that colleges are failing at their most basic mission — teaching students,

and assisting them in their learning.

According to the book, factors that contribute to the low percentage of students who learn in college include the actions, attitudes and demands of both professors and students.

While it is a professor's responsibility to teach students concepts and information, it is the student's job to learn and study the material a professor teaches, said Peter Felten, assistant provost and director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning.

"Sometimes, I think that students forget what college is for," he said.

Some students today have a consumer attitude toward education, Felten said, and he believes many students across the country feel entitled to receive a certain grade simply because tuition is being paid.

See **LEARNING** | PAGE 6

Sandy's receives fourth ALE violation

Becca Tynes
Senior Reporter

Sandy's Steaks and Subs received its fourth Alcohol Law Enforcement violation after an agent witnessed a bartender selling alcohol to underage patrons in late February.

Several other individuals were charged with underage possession of alcohol that same night, said Ron Dilliard, assistant agent in charge with the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission. The names of the individuals will not be released until the report is officially filed with the Commission.

This is Sandy's fourth violation since 2009. The bar received two violations on Jan. 24, 2009 for selling alcohol to underage patrons and another violation for the same offense April 2, 2010, according to Agnes Stevens, public relations director for the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

If Sandy's is found guilty of this most recent violation, it may result in either a 30-day suspension of their permits to sell alcohol or a five-day suspension and an additional \$3,500 fine, Stevens said.

"It is too early to know for sure about this particular case, but that's what the standard suspension or fine would be for this type of violation," Stevens said.

Sandy's should either better train its bartenders and employees or become more diligent about who they sell alcoholic beverages to, Dilliard said.

Employees and the owner of Sandy's had no comment.

"The possession of a license that permits the sale of alcohol is a privilege, and a whole lot of responsibility comes along with it," Dilliard said.

Students react to meal plan changes bringing complaints, petitions before ARAMARK

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Students have responded with petitions and complaints directed to ARAMARK, Elon University's food service provider, after recently introduced changes to the current meal plan system.

Freshman Eric Carroll created an event on Facebook to gauge the mindset of the student body before he contacted ARAMARK earlier this month. He had logged into Ontrack to register for his meal plan for next year and said he was outraged when he saw the new options.

"A lot of students commented on the event page immediately, expressing their dislike with the new meal plan system," he said. "A lot of students told me they felt blindsided and they were

unaware of the change until they saw the Facebook event."

Carroll met with ARAMARK representatives March 17 after Laura Thompson, food service director, noticed his written complaint in the comments box of the Elon Dining Services website.

Jeff Gazda, resident district manager of ARAMARK, said it is the policy of dining services to respond immediately to any issue presented by a student.

"We pride ourselves on answering the majority of questions we receive from the 'contact us' feature of the dining services website within 24 hours," he said. "When the comment requires more than simple email responses, we request a face to face meeting. Eric Carroll is the perfect example of this."

Although Carroll said ARAMARK quickly made it clear there is no way to

keep the current meal plan system, they were open to discussing ways to make it better.

Ideas presented by Carroll included making the block plan available to students living on campus with a sophomore standing or higher. Under the changes, students living in residence halls are required to sign up for one of the all-access plans.

"They said they wouldn't be able to make that change because they wouldn't be able to afford it," Carroll said.

He also suggested creating a different meal plan option between the block and all-access plans that would be available to students living on campus with a sophomore standing or higher.

Gazda said Dining Services is still listening to all points of view at this time.

"We cannot say what is being considered since Elon University Dining Services only represents one department among many that must work in partnership to reach any significant final decision," he said.

Though Carroll said he personally loves the current system, his goal is to work with ARAMARK and provide continuous feedback to help with the dining hall experience for all students.

"I know a worthless cause when I see one and attempting to keep our current meal plan system is one," Carroll said. "The new system has been finalized and sent out to incoming students, parents, alumni and other Elon affiliates."

Gazda said the all access and block

See **MEAL PLAN** | PAGE 3



Construction of new residential complex for upperclassmen to begin this summer

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

The Town of Elon has approved construction of The Station at Mill Point, a new residential community at Elon University designated to house upperclassmen that will begin this summer.

The community will be located at Fire Station Fields, walking distance from campus, and will eventually house up to 320 students in 25 buildings. While earlier plans were to designate the community as the "senior village" for seniors only, Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, said it is likely juniors will be able to live there, at least initially.

Modeled after The Village at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., The Station at Mill Point will feature apartment-style living in a neighborhood setting. The buildings will be different pastel colors and styles, Jackson said. A building will either have two four-person apartments or four four-bedroom apartments.

Pricing for The Station at Mill Point is expected to be about the same as that of the Oaks, Jackson said. Construction will be completed in two phases and phase one will begin this summer, expected to be ready for fall 2012.

Though the housing selection process for the neighborhood has not yet been determined, Jackson said he did not think students would be assigned to apartments randomly.

"I would think that students that are going to live there would be able to select the type of floor plan they'd like," he said.

All apartments will come furnished and will include four bedrooms, a kitchen, a dining area, a living space, a washer and dryer and a porch facing the rest of the community. Students will have access to a central commons building with amenities.

"We are real excited about this," Jackson said. "We've seen it work very well on other campuses and we think it would be a great addition, a great way to spend your senior year with your classmates. I don't know if it'll start off immediately being all seniors, but that's what we're moving toward."

The goal of creating additional housing for upperclassmen is twofold, according to Connie Book, associate provost for Academic Affairs.

"One is for the students themselves to be part of the campus so they have all the assets of the campus on their fingertips," she said. "Students who live close to campus are



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
The Station at Mill Point will offer student amenities that include study rooms, a community kitchen, a fitness room, a large lounge with a fireplace and a swimming pool. Construction will take place in two phases, and the first is set to begin this summer.

more intellectually engaged; they have higher GPAs."

The second reason is that on campuses with four-year residential requirements, upperclassmen naturally serve as mentors to freshmen and sophomores, Book said. In general, students are around more when they're not in class and live closer to campus.

Senior Sarah McKenna said she thought the proposed plans for the neighborhood looked nice, but she would not choose to live there if given the opportunity.

"When you live on campus, you don't learn how to live out of college," she said.

McKenna said her

experience in an off-campus apartment has been an educational one as she has needed to become more independent.

"I lived in The Oaks sophomore year and I didn't have to think about anything," she said. "The rent and utilities were taken care of."

Sophomore Adrienne Brooks, who was denied on-campus housing for next year, said she liked the idea of the new complex because it offers more flexibility.

"I think it's a good thing because it will allow more juniors and seniors to live on campus if they want to," she

said. "The location's not that bad."

Each year, about 300 rising juniors and seniors are denied on-campus housing because of space constraints in order to have enough room for freshmen and sophomores, who are required to live on campus.

Jackson and Book said there are no plans to implement a four-year requirement.

"We'll be going into it wanting a lot of student input," Jackson said. "It won't be a huge complex. I think the location's pretty neat because it's very convenient, but it's not right in the middle of campus."

Lack of funding creates uncertainty about completion of Multi-Faith Center

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

The beginning date of construction on Elon University's Multi-Faith Center remains unclear because of lack of funding.

Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, said the center's construction is contingent upon raising funds before any groundbreaking can occur. Unlike the new residence halls, which are funded by bonds, and the Elon Town Center, which will be funded by business leases, the Multi-Faith Center depends on donations for its construction.

"It doesn't affect student tuition or fees as its construction is being fundraised," Jackson said. "But we have to have the money committed before we can start construction since this facility won't be revenue producing."

Jackson said University Advancement is currently raising funds for the center through a \$100 million campaign that began in fall 2008. He said fundraising, which is more than 80 percent complete, will be directed primarily to the institution's endowment, but will also contribute to building new athletic facilities, completing the Academic Village and constructing the Multi-Faith Center.

Jackson said the Center holds as much priority as other campus construction projects because it directly addresses The Elon Commitment's goal of preparing students to be global citizens.

Senior Zach Jordan, co-founder of Better Together, an interfaith, action-oriented student organization, said though the idea of the center focuses on core Elon Commitment principles, he believes students are going to need to make conscious efforts to involve themselves in multi-faith conversations once the Center is complete.

"The administration throws around a lot of large words about engaged citizenship and inspired leaders and global citizens and all these things, but it's really up to the students to make that

a reality," Jordan said. "It's not going to happen organically - it may, which would be great, but we're going to have to take measures to ensure that it does, otherwise it's just a waste of time. Why build a multi-faith center if you don't have students who have an interest in interfaith activities?"

Lynn Huber, associate professor of religious studies, said she believes some conversations amongst students will happen naturally, but she also thinks some intentionality must come from the individuals directing the center so that opportunities for such conversations can be created.

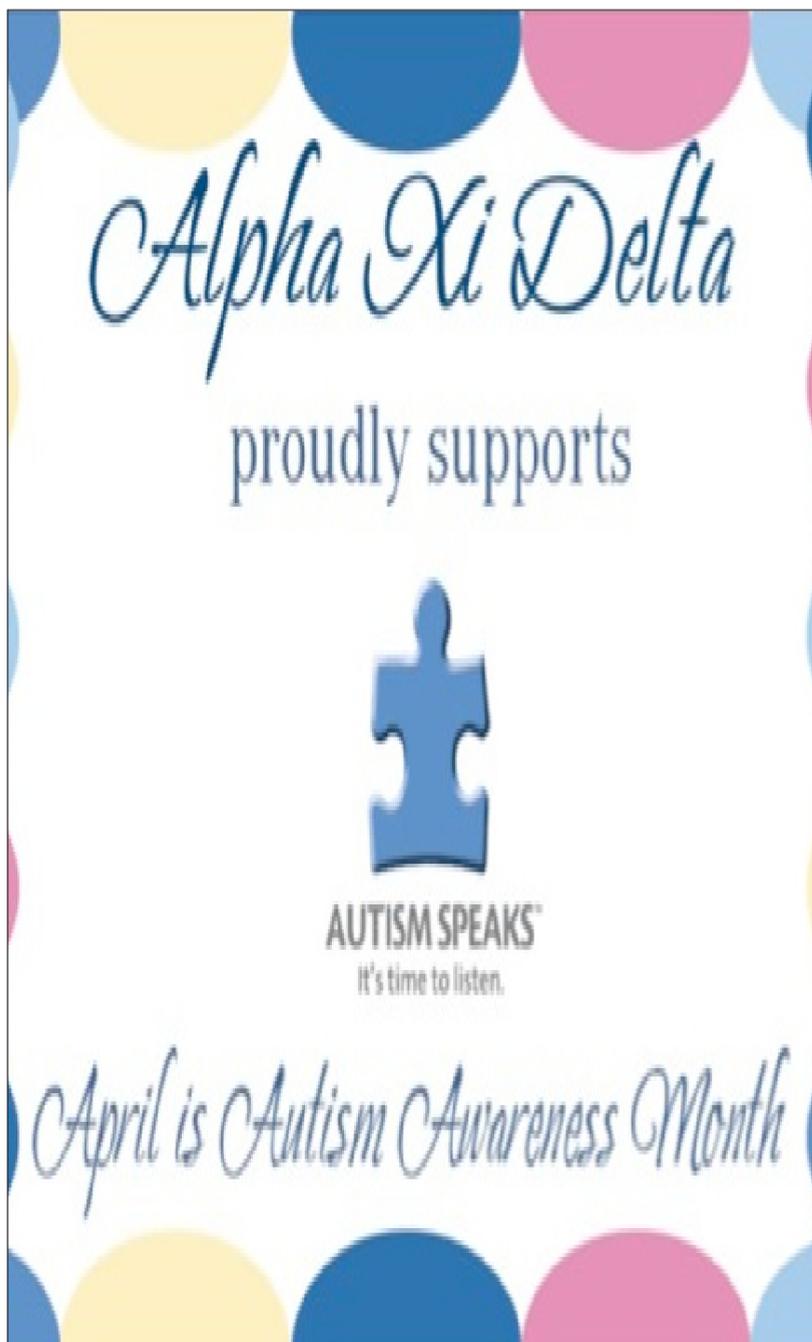
"I mean, you do have to kind of speak openly, honestly and be forthright, but I think it's also helpful for people to have some guidance, especially for those people who have never been involved in multi-faith conversations before, to have set ground rules," Huber said.

Beyond the conversational component the center will offer, Huber said she believes the Multi-Faith Center will serve as a physical, visual component for Elon's already increasing religious diversity.

"It says that people of different faith backgrounds are welcome here, and I think having that space will say a lot and hopefully make Elon a more vibrant place in terms of religious diversity," Huber said.

Sophomore Abbey Keifer, president of Lutherans, Episcopalians and Friends (LEAF), a Christian fellowship student organization, said she believes expansion is necessary so that all campus religious organizations, new or old, can enjoy more space and opportunities.

"The little Truitt Center is really small now," Keifer said. "There's one, or I guess two, meeting rooms, but we kind of fight over it all the time. So, it's nice to have this big building that's in the plans, and it's about time. If we're focusing so heavily on diversity and increasing our opportunities for people of other faiths and cultures, it's about time that we have this great big center so that we can attract people of lesser known faiths or less popular faiths."



With event, committee seeks to raise student awareness about limits of tuition

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Elon University will hold its third Elon...Pass It On! event Wednesday, March 30 to raise awareness about the importance of philanthropy on campus. Tuition payments cover 81 percent of a student's education during the course of the school year, according to Jozi Snowberger, assistant director of annual giving and parent programs.

"Imagine your school year stopping," said Alex Nickodem, coordinator of the senior class giving campaign, in a previous interview. "If not for private donations, what you're looking at wouldn't be there."

This year, March 25 represented the official day when tuition stops covering a student's education and donations kick in. Because this date was during spring break, the event was held until students returned to campus.

"It's an opportunity to educate students that Elon relies on the generosity of alumni, parents, grandparents and friends of the university to help make a student's education possible year after year," Snowberger said.

At the beginning of the day, members of the Student Alumni Council, a newly formed group on campus, will pass around notebooks to students with a statement on the front explaining how much of their education is actually covered by tuition.

"Students will be asked to sign their name in the

notebook acknowledging the statement on the front and then 'pass it on' to a classmate, roommate or someone they pass by while walking to class," Snowberger said. "That person will then sign it and pass it on."

Any student who ends up with a notebook at the end of the day will be asked to submit it through campus mail. The number of students impacted with the message can then be totaled, Snowberger said.

During the day, SAC members will staff a table in Moseley Center with free gifts for students as well as information about philanthropy at Elon. Students will also be able to sign a thank you poster for donors to the university.

SAC was formed in December 2010 with the purpose of educating students on what it means to be an Elon alum, according to Snowberger.

"Through programming and other mediums, SAC plans to develop responsible future alumni, provide opportunities to deepen lifelong connections to the university and educate students on the history and importance of alumni gifts," Snowberger said.

In the past, the event was held at College Coffee and students were not asked to actively participate, Snowberger said.

Elon...Pass It On! is not the only event designed to raise awareness about giving back. The senior class giving campaign is currently targeting the class of 2011 with a goal of 20 percent of those students giving back to the university. A gift of \$20.11, symbolic of their graduation year, is encouraged.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

The Elon...Pass it On! event recognizes the importance of giving back.

"If someone can give less than that, that's fine, if someone wants to make a bigger impact, that's fine, too," said John Barnhill, assistant vice president for University Advancement, in a previous interview. "Everyone has different resources. If we think in terms of personal participation, every person who gives counts as 100 percent."

Snowberger said in the case of Elon...Pass It On!, there is no formal giving campaign for freshmen, sophomore and junior students, but rather a chance to make them more conscious about why Elon encourages donations.

"We want students to understand that tuition doesn't cover it all, it covers the basics of an education," she said. "The gifts to Elon are what help create the margin of excellence, they help to form your experience."

Faculty address internship issues in Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences

Eva Hill
Copy Chief

Faculty members in Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences have formed a committee that will temporarily serve as a means of discussion for internships within the college.

The newly formed committee is looking at broad questions regarding internships, according to Pam Kiser, the committee chair and professor of human service studies.

"Essentially, this committee is looking at drawing a set of the best principles to move internships in the College of Arts and Sciences to a more consistent, high level of quality," she said.

Elon College is the largest academic unit at Elon but does not, as a whole, require students to complete an academic internship before graduating.

The School of Communications and the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business both have designated internship offices and requirements, according to Kiser, but certain majors in the College of Arts and Sciences also require credit-based internships.

Students studying human service studies are required to complete an internship their senior year, according to Kiser. She said the internships in the College are mentored by faculty members and are more research-oriented.

Students are also able to complete them for elective credits, she said.

Kiser said members of the committee have been discussing pertinent questions, such as the best practices for academic internships, the hallmarks of high quality internships, what a syllabus for an internship looks like, what kind of training and faculty development for mentoring internships and what types of compensation are appropriate for faculty.

Pam Brumbaugh, director of experiential education, said the Career Services office helps coordinate internships in the College of Arts and Sciences and is an internship resource for students.

"We talk to folks about finding an internship and help them find what they're looking for," she said. "We can talk about credit requirements department by department and send students to the people who might best meet their needs in terms of being a faculty sponsor."

Students studying education are required to complete student teaching, which is the mother of all internships, according to Brumbaugh, but the College

has not set an internship requirement for all majors.

"Student teaching is considered the same nature as an internship," she said. "The College has not chosen to require it, and it's very well-supported in that school and highly recommended, but it's not required. I would not want it required, I think they're doing fine."

Kiser said the reason the College doesn't have a specific internship office is because of the variety of majors and specializations.

"Students in other schools do not have faculty mentoring and the same kinds of academic assignments that are linked with the internship experience," she said. "Each faculty member has a different specialty area in the College of Arts and Sciences and we think about those kinds of issues in the mentoring than the administrative function. It's also a teaching function."

Nagatha Tonkins, internship director in the School of Communications, said she thinks students in the School of Communications, which has both an internship and career office, are

fortunate to have these resources.

"I think it helps the students tremendously with the process and it gives them the process and information on how to apply and apply things that they should and should not do and how it pertains specifically to the communications industry," she said. "For example, we have a communications internship database that shows students where other interns have been and they can access the supervisors information, they already have a contact."

Tonkins, who is in her third year as the internship coordinator in the School, said it's important for students to understand that it's not just about getting an internship for academic credit.

"The School of Communications expects internships to be a valuable academic learning experience," she said. "There are assignments to enhance their learning on their internship."

Representatives include faculty members within the three branches of the College, which are arts and humanities, the social sciences and math and sciences. The committee meets every two weeks, and was formed by Alison Morrison-Shetlar, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Essentially, this committee is looking at drawing a set of the best principles to move internships in the College of Arts and Sciences to a more consistent, high level of quality."

-PAM KISER,
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Students raise concern over affordability, convenience

MEAL PLAN from PAGE 1

meal plans were approved by the Board of Trustees in February. Immediately following this approval, Dining Services began the marketing campaign, which will continue despite the complaints.

Prior to the changes, student input was collected for more than a year. Along with online satisfaction surveys and a market research procedure, focus groups were held on campus.

Carroll said rather than focusing on the proposed new meal plan, they addressed the current one.

"They didn't run focus groups or surveys based on the new meal plan," he said. "They made the new one, addressing the complaints of the current meal plan system, but didn't allow any student input or feedback before it was finalized."

The majority of students Carroll has talked to about the issue consider ARAMARK to be a large corporation with the sole goal of making money at Elon.

"That is partly true, for every corporation's goal is to make a profit," he said. "A lot of students, I feel, don't understand how nice the people in the ARAMARK office are. They were very receptive to my feedback and seemed upset about my dissatisfaction with the new meal plan."

In response to the Facebook page started by Carroll, freshman Steven Ebert began an online petition with the goal of obtaining 1,000 signatures.

"It seemed that everyone feels the same way, that students had some serious issues with the new system," he said.

The petition specifically addresses the issues of convenience and cost, he said. The new plan does not give students the option of swiping for a combo meal plan unless they pay \$900 more than the basic "all access" price. The "all access + 7" plan gives students unlimited access to three dining halls and seven combo meals a week.

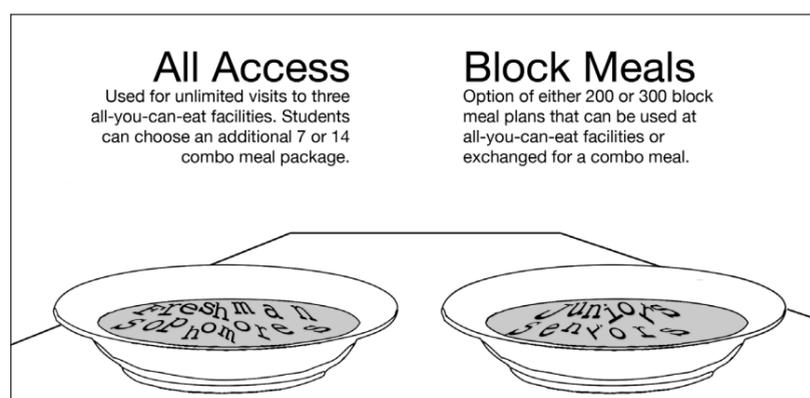
"That means not being able to go to Acorn, Boar's Head or Octagon unless you buy the middle plan of 'all access + 7,'" he said. "Not everyone has time to sit down in a dining hall for three meals a day."

Ebert said he agrees with Carroll's suggestion of creating a block meal plan option for sophomores on campus.

"At this point, reversing their decision to enact the new plan is unlikely," he said. "I hope we can find middle ground."

As of March 29, the petition had a total of 533 signatures.

"They're not the bad guy here, and students need to know that," Ebert



MARK CAPOZZOLA | Graphics Editor

said. "The petition isn't personal and it isn't angry. Petition has such a negative connotation, but the point behind this isn't negative. It's solely an opportunity for us to show ARAMARK that we don't think that this is what's best for us."

The current meal plan campaign will continue, Gazda said, and ARAMARK will continue to respond to feedback.

In response to input thus far, he said additional programming changes will be implemented in the fall.

Colonnades Dining Hall will be open

continuously from breakfast to dinner, McEwen Dining Hall will be open for brunch every Saturday and Sunday and late night dining at McEwen will be expanded to include Saturday.

Carroll said student opinion should be taken seriously because they are primarily here to serve the students.

"If they don't realize that soon, then I believe Elon's SGA should talk with administrators about switching to another dining services provider," he said.

N.C. Open Government Coalition sheds light on public record issues through Sunshine Day

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

Even though the vast majority of North Carolina residents think government transparency is the solution to corruption, only 7 percent think the government is easily accessible, according to a recent Elon Poll.

Government transparency and accessibility are what the Sunshine Center, part of the N.C. Open Government Coalition, is working to improve through education and outreach.

The Center, run out of Elon University, hosted its fourth annual Sunshine Day March 17 in Salisbury to celebrate and work to protect citizens' rights to access information.

The day was successful, with about 100 attendees, according to Brooke Barnett, assistant to the president and associate professor of communications.

"These laws are for anyone seeking information about the government," she said. "Sunshine Week is a week to acknowledge those laws."

Sunshine Day was open to the public and consisted of panels of journalists, public officials, attorneys, professors and others who discussed topics including FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and access to local government documents.

Tom Ross, the new president of the University of North Carolina system, delivered the keynote speech. Ross spoke about many of the challenges the system faces with regard to publicly accessible information.

"The government's only going to be as responsive as people insist that it be," said Steve Riley, vice president and president-elect of the Sunshine Center and a senior editor at The News & Observer. "(It's important) not just for TV, newspapers and radio stations, but for the people to understand that it's their access that's important and when an informed public demands it, it's more important than the news media."

The Elon Poll found that nearly half of respondents had never attempted to access government records, and a poll from 2009 found that 63 percent of respondents were not aware of the sunshine laws, which protect access to these documents.

It's important to know these laws are not just for the media, Barnett said, giving the example that citizens participating in a neighborhood watch could use police records to keep track of crime in their area in order to determine solutions.

One of the panels discussed the results of a records audit

done by Campbell University to determine accessibility of county government records.

What was interesting, Riley said, was the inconsistency demonstrated by the counties. Some requests for information were met with total cooperation, while others faced questions about why the information was needed, which is illegal, or not answered at all.

"We demand public records all the time and we'll keep demanding them," Riley said. "But if average citizens are saying 'no way, you should give this up,' people support that. Citizens have to be persistent, number one. They can't just take no for an answer and walk away."

The motivation behind keeping certain public records hidden from the public is varied, Riley said. Often, officials responsible for providing copies of the information are unaware that they need to give it up, a problem the Sunshine Center works to amend.

But occasionally, people attempt to cover things up. Riley said persistence is the first defense measure against stubbornness, but lawyers are often necessary for larger cases.

"In some cases, if they know you're not going to sue them, they'll just keep saying no," he said.



LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

Domestic study program in Elon's future

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

Elon University is looking to develop a signature domestic study away program to support the institution's commitment to diversity, as indicated in The Elon Commitment.

Domestic study away programs will generate engaged academic experiences away from the campus and the classroom, said Brooke Barnett, assistant to the president.

Students do not need to travel far to experience diversity, she said. An urban experience in Greensboro would still contain educational value unattainable in the classroom.

"While every experience is valuable, the one on the ground is of particular value," said Connie Book, associate provost for Academic Affairs.

Such programs are not a foreign concept to Elon students and faculty. Summer programs in New York and Los Angeles support The Elon Commitment's diversity goals, Book said.

"They engage students with different populations," she said. "Those students have to take a class together and complete an internship and both of those experiences in heavy urban populations introduce them to ways of life that are unique and supplement classroom experiences."

Other examples of preexisting domestic study away programs include a Winter Term course in Hawaii and a Teaching Fellows civil rights history tour. Book also referred to a 10-day trip to New Orleans she led during Winter Term to show the academic value of a domestic program.

During the 10-day period, students examined the role of emergency radio during Hurricane Katrina and had the opportunity to interview radio listeners and emergency fire personnel regarding the importance of radio.

"When you're on the ground experiencing something, it is transformative," she said. "I could not have lectured that." Although participation in existing programs indicates student interest, Barnett

said the development of a signature domestic study away program is in its infancy.

"We are hoping to create something that will have multiple lengths and distances away as well as diversity within the groups," she said.

A full menu of options costing between a few hundred and a couple of thousand dollars is expected to be developed, Book said.

Cost would depend on number of credit hours, location, duration and activities associated with the experience.

"We are hoping to create something that will have multiple lengths and distances away as well as diversity within the groups," Barnett said.

While new travel opportunities focus on domestic diversity issues, Barnett said she does not intend for the development of a domestic study away program to replace study abroad experiences.

Book said she does not believe domestic study away options will decrease the number of students

Goals in The Elon Commitment's objective to increase diversity:

- Double need-based financial aid
- Triple international enrollment
- Create some signature domestic study away program
- Ensure 100 percent access to study abroad
- Construct the Multi-Faith Center

studying abroad. Students still study abroad despite participation in the New York program, she said.

"It's something we hope people will do in addition to study abroad," Barnett said. "Because people don't study abroad in their first year we hope people will do this in their first year."

Book said she wants to engage students in all years. Participation in current domestic travel programs is across the board and she said she expects level of interest to continue.

Details concerning destinations, course topics, costs and duration have yet to be determined.

Elon woman found guilty in hit-and-run

Anna Johnson
Editor-in-Chief



Robin Ragsdale of Elon was found guilty of a felony hit-and-run.

An Elon woman arrested and charged with hitting and leaving an Elon University student last semester was found guilty for a felony hit-and-run.

Robin Stanfield Ragsdale, of 500 James Toney Drive, was found guilty of a felony hit-and-run and of violating her 2008 parole. She is scheduled to serve a total of 21 months in prison and will have her license revoked for two years, according to court documents.

Ragsdale hit freshman Toorialey

Fazly as he rode his bicycle to his 8 a.m. class Sept. 15. He was airlifted to Duke Medical Center and sustained three cracked vertebrae. Ragsdale was ordered to pay \$2,800 toward Fazly's medical bills.

In 2007, Ragsdale, under the name Robin Michelle Stanfield, was found guilty in a July accident that left four people dead. Pedestrians were attending to a broken-down car on University Drive near East Haggard Avenue when Ragsdale's car ran off the road and hit the stopped car.

Michael King, 43, of Swepsonville, and Mildred Isley, 57, Freddie Coulter, 55, and his wife, Sandra Coulter, 51, all of Graham, were killed in the accident. Larry Isley Jr., of Graham, was the only survivor.

Ragsdale has two pending cases including a misdemeanor resisting a public officer and misdemeanor for simple assault. She is scheduled to appear in court May 12.



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Doherty Scholar starts own business, represents goals of entrepreneurship

Kyra Gemberling
Design Intern

After her shoulder injury, Meghan Green, a junior on the Elon University golf team, wasn't sure what to do while she was out for the spring season. During that time, a thought came to her: what better way to use extra time than to start a business?

Green is the founder of CleanTeam LLC, a fully-licensed limited-liability company that provides cleaning services for both on- and off-campus housing.

As an entrepreneurship major and a Doherty Scholar, a group of the top juniors and seniors pursuing a business degree with an entrepreneurship concentration, Green said CleanTeam relates to the goals of her major because she gets to apply her academic objectives with her other business knowledge.

"This is another way for Doherty scholars to represent what we're doing even though it's not a very glamorous job or business idea," Green said. "I've learned a lot and it has been a great education process."

Starting a business on her own was challenging, she said, especially creating a website, going through the incorporation process and understanding taxation.

"I had some help from the business school," Green said.

"It wasn't as hard as I thought it was going to be but I definitely had a lot of obstacles, so the business school taught me how to deal with them."

Gary Palin, executive director of the Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, had Green in one of his classes and said he encourages students' initiatives to start their own businesses despite the challenges. These initiatives are important because experiential learning is a capstone for the center's commitment to entrepreneurship at Elon.

"Launching a venture is always a challenge, in addition to the standard issues that entrepreneurs will face," Palin said. "Students must also balance their academic schedule, which throws another degree of difficulty to this challenge."

With the establishment of CleanTeam, Green said she hopes to advance her business in a number of ways, such as hiring students as independent contractors. Students employed thus far have gone through background checks and have also done on the job cleaning training with Green to ensure efficiency.

Green is going to further develop her business by starting a guerilla marketing campaign that will put up more eye-catching, humorous ads around campus.

"Customer word of mouth would be great also, as well



Junior Meghan Green said her new business, CleanTeam LLC, has been a great way to take her mind off her recent shoulder injury.

as customer reviews and referrals," Green said. "If you refer a friend, you get \$10 off your next cleaning and if you subscribe, then you can get \$10 off a package deal."

As CleanTeam LLC continues to grow, Green is excited for new developments and inspiring other students to undertake similar goals.

"It's really been a great application of what I've learned, and I learn more every day," she said.

Quick Facts on CleanTeam LLC:

- CleanTeam LLC offers special services for After Party Clean Ups, Moving Out Clean Ups and more.
- To sign up for cleaning services:
 - * Go online to www.cleanteamllc.com and make

an appointment. Customers use Google check out to pay online and rates start at \$20 per room.

* E-mail
Meghan Green at mgreen11@elon.edu to schedule an appointment around your

convenience.

- CleanTeam LLC is also having a logo design contest! Go to the website (www.cleanteamllc.com) or like them on Facebook and the winner will receive a prize yet to be determined.

New chair of PA program develops plans prior to student arrival

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Mark Archambault, recently hired director for the physician assistant program, had no intention of applying for a position at Elon University. That all changed, he said, when he saw the amount of resources and number of faculty members dedicated to the new program.

His first position, after obtaining a master's in Health Science, was in a health system in a rural community, an experience that will influence the direction of the PA Program.

"I think that the root of the physician's assistant profession is to serve the primary care needs of our country," he said. "It's challenging right now because a lot of times, economic incentives or just the feasibility isn't there to promote graduates going into primary care."

Archambault said he entered the profession to help meet the needs of those

who weren't being served or didn't have access to health care.

"I think the PA profession has been very flexible in meeting health care needs of the patients they serve and that the roots are primary care but also in seeing how the profession can meet the other needs of the community," he said.

During the interview process for the position, Archambault presented his proposal for a curriculum model, which he said supports student learning and allows the program to continually improve. The proposed curriculum will enter the official university approval process, which takes almost a year, as early as October.

Some of Archambault's goals include teaching students how to partner with patients and allow them to improve the patients' quality of health.

"It's allowing part of the PA curriculum to be owned by the students who can make it theirs, which is unique to Elon's program," he said. "It's typically not something that is able to be created in other places due to the requirements for accreditation and inflexibility of curriculum."

There was a strong selection of candidates, but Archambault was the best fit for Elon, Provost Steven House said.

"His vision for international experience and a service learning component

represents all of the things that we really pride ourselves for in the undergraduate departments, and he wants to bring them to the graduate program," House said in a previous interview.

Archambault said the academic environment of the program will transform the mind, body and spirit of the student, while also encouraging freedom of thought.

"Engaged learning through service and continued pursuit of deep understanding of the human condition will be transformational for students and faculty," Archambault said in a previous interview. "In other words, the physician assistant program has the ability to fully embrace the mission of Elon and directly serve societal needs."

The 27-month program will include a year of classwork, followed by 15 months of clinical rotations. Pending accreditation, the first class will enter the program in January 2013, begin the rotations a year later and graduate in late March 2015.

The structure of the program will also allow for experience across all aspects of medicine, which will give students the opportunity to enter into any number of pathways to the medical profession. Experiences during clinical rotations will support primary care as well as more generalist medicine, Archambault said.

Before the first class starts,

Archambault said there is extensive program administration that must take place.

"One of the key things is recruiting a team of faculty and staff to help me in developing the curriculum and program and providing quality education," he said. "We'll be networking and reaching out to surrounding medical communities to secure places to do rotations."

He will also work to get a good sense of the resources available at Elon, he said, and find opportunities to collaborate with other on-campus departments and groups.

Prior to arriving at Elon earlier this month, Archambault worked at Wake Forest University as vice chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

After interacting with an Elon alumna studying at Wake Forest University, Archambault said what stood out was how her eyes lit up with a casual mention of Elon.

"I could tell she was visually reminiscing about her experiences," he said. "That's the type of environment I want people to say happens within our PA studies curriculum, a lot of enthusiasm and energy for the learning process and that students feel like faculty are supportive and caring as they go through a rigorous program."

Student-run event aims to transforms classmates to professional contacts

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

The student running on the next treadmill might be the most valuable professional contact. Classmates are often the most overlooked resources, according to Mike Nowak, founder of The Elon Network.

The Elon Network, a student-run event planned for April 4, will provide Elon University students with the opportunity to meet and question classmates who have completed internships and jobs in various industries.

"We've become so reliant on Facebook and LinkedIn that we forget how to network face-to-face," Nowak said.

While students use these platforms to foster professional relationships, The Elon Network will blend innovative networking

opportunities with traditional business values, he said.

After speaking with seniors, Nowak determined the majority of students achieving dream jobs already had a friend or relative in the industry, he said. His observation inspired him to showcase these individuals and create an event where they can provide advice to their peers.

Developing professional relationships among students supplements the amount of business contacts available, Nowak said. The Elon Network committee, which is composed of nine students, selected 60 to 70 upperclassmen to discuss their internship and job experiences and assist underclassmen with the application process.

The lack of a formal structure enables attendees to approach and speak with any number of

student presenters at The Elon Network, he said.

"The number of alumni recruiting Elon students isn't anything to be proud of right now," Nowak said.

Nowak identified limited alumni relations as a challenge for students seeking employment. He created the event in hopes of providing students with a larger pool of professional contacts.

"With 5,000 students on campus, we should be able to find individuals with cool internships and connections and bring that all together," said senior Charley Costa, one of the committee members.

"The committee itself was purposely constructed to be diverse and in that we all knew different people that represent diverse industries," Nowak said.

Committee members also

looked through the Career Services database to find students who represent a variety of interests, Costa said.

Nowak said he acknowledges The Elon Network will not feature all majors or academic interests, but believes the event enables students to cross-collaborate and speak with representatives of different industries.

The committee also chose 30 people to greet attendees and direct them to specific areas of interest, which will be distinguished by colors. Presenting upperclassmen have colored T-shirts to signify their respective field and industry.

The event will also showcase professional attire from Brooks Brothers and Vineyard Vines. Career Services will also be present to review resumés.

Nevertheless, the student

Fast Facts:

Who: students
When: April 4 at 5 p.m.
Where: Alumni Gym
Why: finding professional contacts

presenters are the main focus of the event, Nowak said.

"It's a fun approach to the whole networking thing," he said. "Students are not getting lectured. These are fellow classmates that want to help."

Still, he cautions students that it is not a traditional networking event where they should expect to walk away with a stack of business cards.

"It's a casual event where students can come together and talk to each other and have a professional-level conversation," Costa said.

In her own words:

Local doctor shares perception of the new health care bill

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Ginette Archinal never wanted to work in the American health care system. But after marrying an American, Archinal entered the system she had long characterized as unjust.

"I have fundamental problems with a nation that denies basic health care to people," she said. "I basically know what it's like to work in a system where everybody has access to health care, so I have a perspective on where things are going now."

But following the recent health care bill, Archinal said the nation has made a step in the right direction.

After attending medical school in Australia and working in the Australian health care system, Archinal moved to London in 1988, where she worked for the National Health Service. In 1995, she moved to the United States where she did a residency in the hospital system before entering private practice in 1998. In 2002, she opened her own practice with a partner in Cary, N.C.

Q: What are some of the key impacts of the health care bill?

A: The first changes under Obamacare, which I consider a positive term, really started around September of last year and the initial changes were mandated to start Jan. 1. The initial ones include that children up to the age of 26, whether full-time students or not and even if they're working, can be covered under their parents' health insurance.

They can also no longer deny coverage or outrageously increase premiums for children with pre-existing conditions. That means if you're a parent and you've changed jobs, which has happened with the recession, and you have a child with asthma, any claim for it would not have been covered. One of the primary causes of bankruptcy has been things like that. In terms of investment in the future of America, the improvement in children's health alone justified anything else that's in the bill. As a physician, it is so nice to know that people are going to be taken care of because that's the sort of thing we worry about.

Q: How has the medical profession been impacted?

A: Another thing I think primary care in general is excited about is the fact that primary care will be recognized as a valuable part of health care provision. Primary care gets paid significantly less for doing the same job as a specialist, which means they earn sufficiently less. Medical students don't go into primary care because



Judy Ingles analyzes a patient's blood specimen. The new health care bill has influenced professional in the medical field.

they have to pay off medical school loans and the fewer primary care doctors you have, the more likely people are to get care through ER and the more likely people are to wait until they're really sick. I see the changes as improving health care for residents fundamentally. A healthier population is a more productive population.

Q: How have patients responded?

A: Most people felt the system worked very well, but that changed when the recession hit. A lot of people who have spent their entire life having wonderful health care through a provider for no cost suddenly didn't have a job. The biggest input I got from patients is that they could not afford COBRA, a system whereby if you lose your job and you'd had employer-provided health care, you can still purchase it at a negotiated rate for 18 months. What came as a huge shock to those of my patients in this position was the cost of COBRA. The first change to health care was legislation sponsored by Obama and the Democrats subsidizing COBRA up to 35 percent. People on COBRA now pay only 65 percent of what it would cost otherwise, which is huge.

Q: What personal experiences have you had in your practice that had influenced your perception of the bill?

A: In July of last year, I saw the son of a patient who didn't have health insurance. He came to me with pain in the hand — after being injured earlier in the year, he had gone to urgent care and was told it was fine. When I saw it, I thought he had a particular break and sent him to an orthopedist who operated on it. The insurance company denied the claim because it was a pre-existing condition. If Obamacare had been in place at the time of the injury, he would have had insurance. Now you have a 24-year old who will have years to pay his hospital bill. That's money he can't invest in the economy, can't put toward a home. That's the sort of thing that's no longer going to happen.

Q: In your opinion, why has the political debate surrounding this issue been so heated?

A: I think the Democrats have done a poor job of explaining the realities of the bill, and they did particularly bad with the Medicare population. Medicare didn't cover most preventative health care but it now does. You've got a population who has great health problems who are now more likely to come in for an annual check rather than waiting until they're seriously ill. I think the Republican Party did a much better job of scaring people than Democrats did on explaining the benefits.

Elon places emphasis on teaching, transitions

LEARNING from PAGE 1

"I don't think that all students act this way, but if you're going to be entitled to anything, it's a really good, demanding, transforming education," Felten said. "A grade is simply a measure of how much a faculty member judges that you've learned."

Students have every right to expect a challenging, high quality education, but they do not have the right to expect an A in each class, he said. And Jessie Moore, associate professor of English and coordinator of ENG 110, said she believes Elon students do not fall under the percentage of students who learn little in college.

It is the responsibility of the faculty and administration at each university to decipher how to keep students from falling behind academically.

"Colleges should take notice as to how adrift their students are when they arrive at college," Felten said. "Colleges should do a better job of anchoring students and teaching them to value learning."

Stephen Braye, an English professor who also teaches Elon 101 and the Global Experience, said he believes high-grade entitlement is not an issue at Elon, and it is the rare exception that students expect to come to class and simply receive a good grade.

Transition issues may be a more pressing issue than apathetic students, Braye said. Any 18-year-old coming to college has significant transition issues.

"Those issues can prevent students from performing at their highest level," Braye said. "I think Elon 101 helps with those transition issues."

Some students may have a difficult time being away from their home for such a long period of time, or may even be dealing with personal or family issues while at college, but problems adapting to college depend on each student.

Core classes and Elon 101

Elon 101 works to face some of these issues by attempting to anchor students in their studies, Braye said.

"I think the freshmen core classes, including Elon 101, are imperative for establishing what we expect at Elon," Braye said. "They're really essential to our students' education."

But, while Braye may believe the freshmen core classes assist students in establishing Elon values regarding education, not all freshmen agree.

Freshman Katherine Bain said she believes that the freshman core classes are a good idea in theory, but they are often repetitive of what many students learned in high school.

"I understand the idea of having core classes, however, I found much of what I learned in College Writing, I had already learned in high school," Bain said. "I think there should be various levels of the course."

Many of the classes Bain expected would be discussion-based turned out to be lecture-based, which she said she found disappointing.

"I really struggled with that," she said. "It's difficult to be so excited about a certain class and then learn that students will not have the ability to participate the majority of class time."

The freshman core classes would be much more successful among students if they were able to choose the theme of their Global Experience class, or if there were various levels of College Writing, Bain said.

Arum and Roska's study found that students whose classes required more than 40 pages of reading a week and more than 20 pages of writing a semester gained more knowledge than other students. But, simply counting page numbers isn't sufficient anymore, according to Moore. Students are

constantly writing on Facebook walls, sending text messages and Tweeting, too.

"That all counts as writing and is a key part of how we communicate in the 21st century," she said.

Teaching and scholarship

At Elon, professors teach all classes, but at other universities, students may wind up with teaching assistants rather than experienced professionals. While classes at other universities may be taught by teaching assistants, Elon's decision to have all classes taught by professors allows more depth in the classroom, according to Jessie Moore, associate professor of English and coordinator of ENG 110. According to Moore, Elon students do not fall under the percentage of students who learn little in college, as a result.

"Because Elon chooses to use faculty to teach classes at the university rather than teaching assistants, it allows us to bring our own research into the classroom," she said.

Students who have access to faculty members' research are able to learn even more than what is taught in the classroom, Moore said and, through research, they are able to understand the material on a deeper level, she said.

While Moore said teaching is the number one priority at Elon and takes priority over research and service to the university, she said Elon does value all three.

"The faculty handbook states very clearly that teaching is the highest priority," Felten said.

He said he believes Elon has its priorities correct in that teaching will always be considered the highest priority.

"Teaching and scholarship shouldn't be in competition, however, they should

be complementary of each other," Felten said.

Sophomore Kenny Dunkle said he sees faculty members constantly wanting to engage with students.

Professors at Elon are always asked to be teachers first, Braye said.

"I have never had a professor at Elon who simply didn't care about his or her students," Dunkle said.

The emphasis placed on teaching at Elon was recently brought into question after professors were denied tenure. The tenure decisions for Lisa Peloquin, assistant professor of sociology, and Rebecca Olmedo, assistant professor of Spanish, were criticized by students, faculty and alumni who felt the professors' contributions to the university were not fully considered.

An email was sent to faculty and staff regarding the issue, endorsed by five tenured professors in the Departments of Sociology and Anthropology.

"It was never the intention of the Task Force on Scholarship to destabilize the delicate balance between teaching, scholarship and service at the university," the email read. "Nor was it imagined that excellent teaching should be trumped by publication activity."

MORE ONLINE: NEWS

VIDEO:

Do you feel like you're learning what you need to know in college? Hear what other college students think, leave a comment and let us know.

<http://bit.ly/TPOlearning>

LAURA VAN DRIE | Multimedia Intern

Editorial

Be careful the things you do, we will learn

The past few weeks have been very busy at Elon. A new construction boom has begun as the existing work moves into its final phase. Spring break sent students scattering around the country and abroad.

But throughout all this, a controversy has remained at the forefront of the minds of many students and faculty: the tenure questions surrounding sociology professor Lisa Peloquin.

Since the dispute over the lack of a tenure offer for Peloquin emerged, The Pendulum has run two letters to the editor, one submitted cartoon and several articles in reference to this event and the entire tenure process, because it is a major issue for the Elon community.

In elementary school, teachers aren't just babysitters, teaching munchkins how to tie their shoes and say their ABCs. And in college, professors aren't human encyclopedias who function only to spit out information and grade papers. They are much more than that.

A truly great professor can alter the course of a student's college journey. He or she can inspire someone to choose a major, take on a research project, pursue a job

A kid who's never even heard of archaeology discovers a long-lost civilization in Tibet. A student who thought they wanted to study political science discovers a drug that staves off cancer. An aspiring journalist realizes a passion for giving a voice to the people of impoverished African nations.

These are the types of self discoveries that take place every day under the careful guidance and influence of good professors. And this sphere of influence isn't limited to academics.

College students live in a world comprised of very young adults. They may be old enough to vote or even drink alcohol, but most aren't old enough to set an example of a well-balanced, well-rounded life. Rigorous social and academic schedules almost guarantee this isn't possible.

But in the classroom, in an office or even at College Coffee, professors serve as examples of people living and functioning in the real world. These are people who study, teach, serve the community, have families, pursue independent projects and participate in civic engagement. They serve as models for life, not just as students of philosophy or accounting or English, but as citizens of a

community, a nation and the world.

It has become clear through the uproar over Peloquin's denial of tenure appointment that she was a professor who has enormous influence. Not only do her students see her as an excellent purveyor of knowledge and executor of classroom activities, but they also saw her as a good person, willing to go the extra mile to help her students and to show them the way in school and beyond.

It is disheartening to think that the university isn't recognizing her or others like her who are clearly having so large an impact.

So professors of Elon, take heart, and heed the words of songwriter and composer Stephen Sondheim: "Careful the things you say/Children will listen/Careful the things you do/Children will see and learn."

While we may no longer legally be children, we are still some of the most impressionable souls you'll find on the Earth. And what's more, we're clearly seeking the guidance and influence you as professors can offer, because we're here, in your classes, in your offices, even at College Coffee.

Let's name the Phoenix and retain some Elon spirit

The Elon Athletics department has recently announced an opportunity for fans to "Name the Phoenix" that would give the university's mascot an official name.

Some of the most notable named mascots in the college sports world are the University of Georgia's Bulldog, Uga, University of Texas' longhorn, Bevo, and University of Colorado's buffalo, Ralphie, among others.

This new event by the department opens possibilities for Phoenix fans to give a name to the mascot that will both capture the spirit of the university and give fans a chance to relate with the Phoenix.

Common names will certainly be submitted, as will inappropriate ones (this is a college environment, after all), along with creative names that will fit the above criteria. But there is one name that comes to mind before all

the others.

How about naming our legendary bird mascot by a "Caterpillar?" Or "Big Cat?" Perhaps "The Excavator?" Sounds a little strange, doesn't it? But here's the thing: the true spirit of Elon University has become one of change, with new building proposals flooding The Pendulum's front page for the duration of this school year and it would only make sense to name the mascot after the construction equipment that

will frequent the school's property for the duration of every current student's time here.

Maybe we could name the Phoenix "Fountain," for the few geysers that inhabit the campus.

Another possibility could be naming the mascot after the vast fleet of carts that zoom around campus on a regular basis. What better way to honor physical plant workers that make Elon look the way it does than naming the bird "Cushman?"

Or what about "Phrastic" or "Smitty J" or "Daddy Warbeaks?" For at least one person on this campus, each of these names may be appropriate.

The point is that naming the Phoenix elevates it from an abstract creature. It makes it distinctively Elon. Putting a name to the beak offers Phoenix fans of any age a chance to connect on a more personal level, and that's a movement we should all get behind.

See page 15 for the full story on how the Phoenix will get its official name.



EVA HILL | Cartoonist

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I have just been made aware of the naming of the Elon Phoenix mascot. In viewing some of the suggested names, I felt that it was appropriate that I suggest a name that almost certainly has not been mentioned by anyone up to this time. I am suggesting the name PEAHEAD. In using this name, I wish to go back to the earlier years of Elon College (now University.)

I was born in the town of Elon College in 1929 and might very well be the oldest living alumnus born in Elon. Although I have been away from North Carolina for almost 60 years since I graduated from Elon, I have maintained a close relationship with the school. Twice a year, I return to Elon and always visit the campus and some of the people associated with the university. I feel that, with the exception of Dr. Earl Danieley, I may be as familiar with the early years of Elon as anyone.

Now, I would like to elaborate on my suggested name for the Phoenix mascot. From 1927 to 1936, the coach of three major sports at Elon was a gentleman named Douglas Clyde "Peahead" Walker. During his years at Elon, his teams won four North State Conference championships. Peahead was a colorful

and charismatic coach. He was tough, feisty and expected a lot from his players. Peahead Walker, I feel, ushered in the real era of Elon football. During his years at Elon, it is likely that his most famous player did not become famous for his football ability, but for his later career as a Hollywood film director. The name of the player was Martin Ritt.

As a young boy growing up in Elon, my family lived a short distance from the Walker home. Our house, now owned by the university, was located about one hundred yards east of the softball field. Due to his success at Elon, Coach Walker was hired by Wake Forest College as their head coach. From 1937 to 1950, Peahead Walker was a highly successful coach at Wake Forest and turned out a number of famous players, notably Bill George and others.

Coach Walker left Wake Forest in 1950 to accept a higher paying position with Herman Hickman at Yale. After a year at Yale, Peahead was hired as the head coach of the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League where he remained until his retirement after the 1959 season. During his time in Montreal, his teams won four conference championships. After his retirement, he became a scout

for the New York Giants football team. One of Coach Walker's good friends was Arnold Palmer, who he tried to recruit while at Wake Forest to play football. It is apparent that Arnold made the right choice and played golf for Wake Forest.

I am familiar with other coaches at Elon. There was Horace Hendrickson, Red Wilson, Jerry Tolley and Pete Lembo. Elon was fortunate to have each of these men as they were all outstanding coaches. There was, however, only one Peahead Walker. Although Coach Walker died more than 40 years ago, he is remembered as a legend in the coaching world.

I think it might also be of interest that one of Elon's major donors and a former Elon trustee is Zac Walker, nephew of Peahead Walker. Peahead is a member of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

The Phoenix was a bird that rose from the ashes. I think it would be symbolic and also appropriate if the Elon mascot became known as Peahead — a fierce bird that inspires its students and student athletes to perform at their highest possible level.

Bill Nall
Class of 1951

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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Opinions

Two sides to the story: cutting NPR funding

NPR has left-wing agenda and shouldn't be funded by the federal government



Ryan Maass
Columnist

Since 1971, the U.S. federal government, in correlation with the private sector, has funded National Public Radio—a radio outlet that provides news and entertainment to listeners of more than 797

public stations across the country. Now, congressional Republicans are looking forward to the network's demise, and with good reason.

There are several reasons to cut NPR's funding—not least of which is NPR's heavily left-wing bias.

Last October, NPR fired long-time correspondent Juan Williams. Williams has, in addition to his commentary and other duties at NPR, made very frequent appearances on the Fox News Channel, engaging in friendly debates with the likes of Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly.

Williams is by no means the fiery conservative that the two aforementioned pundits are but he does differ from other left-of-center analysts for, occasionally, coming to terms with the other side.

That didn't matter for NPR. During a segment on Fox News, Williams said he got nervous when he saw people on planes in traditional Muslim garb.

He was fired a few days later, illustrating how the executives at NPR promote a politically correct

agenda coinciding with a liberal perspective.

There is nothing wrong with a network promoting one view or the other. Viewers and listeners are left to themselves to choose a network that they believe is truthful. The crime here is rewarding a biased agenda with federal funding, and masquerading it as an objective news source.

Recently, NPR came under heavier fire from a slew of scandals, which ultimately led to the resignation of Chief Executive Vivian Schiller and fundraising executive Ron Schiller.

Continuing the funding for an organization that behaves in such a way is as immoral as it is unnecessary. It is immoral because NPR fails to adhere to ethical standards required in objective journalism. It is unnecessary because there is nothing NPR does that the private sector cannot match, or even surpass.

The Wall Street Journal estimates NPR receives about 33.7 million weekly listeners, many of whom identify as being politically moderate. But federal funding is better allocated elsewhere, or better yet, not spent at all.

Conservatives in the House have put forward other plans to tackle the ominous deficit looming over our generation's future. While the proposed cuts are impressive when compared to previous plans, it still doesn't quite "cut" it.

The availability of NPR's endowment of \$258 million would be a nice addition.

NPR provides a vital service and reducing funding will undermine good journalism



Marlena Chertock
Columnist

Since 1971, National Public Radio has offered news to listeners across the United States.

The organization employs more than 300

reporters and staff members around the world, not including those who work at the member stations that make it possible for NPR programming to reach the households, workplaces and cars of millions of listeners daily.

But last week, the organization's future was put in jeopardy when the House of Representatives voted to cut funding.

NPR is a cultural haven. There are shows and stories about science, international news, education, books, technology and various genres of music. No other radio station in the United States is as well rounded as NPR.

But first and foremost, NPR is a news organization and shouldn't have to focus on money. It shouldn't be faced with the possibility of a large chunk of its revenue vanishing like so many other news organizations have in the last few years. This sword of Damocles could prevent it from

focusing on its main priority: providing information to the public.

Media play an important role in the checks and balances of our democratic government. If it is not funded, it may disappear—and a government without news is a "Brave New World" this nation, and world, shouldn't have to face.

Does talk about cutting the NPR budget mean some government leaders believe news is not worth keeping around, that news is something that can be sliced off bit by bit in the budget? What message will the government send if it stops funding news?

If the government condemns the funding of a news organization, it could trickle down to the rest of society and private donors, whom NPR relies on for a large chunk of its funding. Donors may follow the government and abandon the cause, as well.

Some say NPR is biased, but there is truly no other radio news organization that has the scope, depth and objectivity that NPR possesses. NPR is one of the last strongholds of integrated journalism. The organization offers stories on the radio and Web that people wouldn't have access to otherwise.

So which is preferable: having to keep an ear tuned for bias or not getting any information at all? I think most would agree the former far outweighs the latter.

Recognition is hard to come by for female athletes



Edith Veremu
Columnist

As sports lovers cure themselves of March Madness and get ready for baseball season, nearly all of the attention is once again on male athletes. Turn on any sports channel or flip open an ESPN magazine and you're bombarded with articles, previews and analyses of male-dominated sports. The media do not pay attention to women athletes and frankly, neither does our society.

Over the years, women have fought for equality in all areas but still face inequality in sports. A University of Southern California study showed that ESPN's "SportsCenter" and other TV stations devoted 96.3 percent of airtime to men's sports and only 1.6 percent to women's sports. Talk about fair game.

Women play basketball, soccer, tennis, golf, lacrosse and hockey and nearly every other sport out there, yet no one pays attention to them. Take Elon women's games, for example. Go to one of the women's games and look at the stands that are half-empty while the bleachers are packed at the men's

games. Women work as hard as men, if not harder. Female athletes have to prove to the world they are serious and passionate about sports in order to be taken seriously while men simply glide through those hoops.

Also, on a more local scale, our women's volleyball team won the Southern Conference Northern Division title for the first time ever in November 2010, but once again, the attention was directed to the football team and its achievements, which weren't all that impressive, to be frank. Elon's women's cross country team excelled in the fall, doing better than the men's team, but it was kept under wraps.

No matter how hard female athletes work, they don't receive the same attention from the media and society as male athletes. The media only pay attention to female athletes when they are attractive, often turning these women into sex symbols instead of symbols of equality.

Anna Kournikova made her name known mostly thanks to her good looks. The retired tennis player graced many covers and received endorsements from several companies. As an athlete, Kournikova won the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Newcomer of the Year in 1996 and the WTA Doubles Team of the Year with Martina Hingis in 1999. This is not to

undermine her career as an athlete, but it simply shows that female athletes receive more coverage when they are perceived as sex objects.

Male athletes don't have to become sex objects for us to know who they are.

As a society, we claim we want equality between the genders, but we do nothing about it. Magazines, such as Sports Illustrated, tell us it's OK to feature sweaty and bulky male athletes on the cover, but a bikini-clad female athlete in a different issue, which happens to be its highest selling issue of the year.

What will it take for female athletes to receive equal treatment as male athletes? Some female athletes, such as the Williams sisters and Mia Hamm, have come close to getting as much media coverage in their sports as men, but once again, the male athletes in those fields steal the spotlight back within weeks.

If you're a true sports fan, you should watch both men and women play sports and there should be no discrimination. Sports are sports and just as the athletes share their passion and love for what they do, so should the fans. Unless sports fans give female athletes the same attention as male athletes, the playing field will not be level nor will female athletes receive the respect they deserve.

TO COMMENT ...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 500 words or less can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor and columns can be e-mailed to pendulum@elon.edu or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244

Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

A message board also accompanies each article online at www.elon.edu/pendulum where commentary can be quickly posted.

MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

A new season could mean a fresh start! Read about five Pendulum staffers' resolutions and how they're progressing at:
pendulumresolutions.wordpress.com

The Opinions never stop flowing on the blog. Check it out at:
www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com

There are too many columns to fit on one page, so columnist Nicole Monge answers the eternal question of love or money on The Pendulum's website. Just click the Opinions tab to read this and other columns.



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Style



Eight-year-old Ashlyn holds one of the family's many chickens that help with natural plowing of the fields. Ashlyn and her sister, Schuyler, help out on the farm and frequently help sell produce at farmer's markets.



Above left: The owner of Laughing Spirit Farm, Rob Tolbert, said healthy soil is one of the most important parts of farming. The health of soil determines the quality of the food, he said.



Above right: Tessie, one of the Tolberts' dogs, is a valued member of the farm and "herds" the chickens.



Tolbert adjusts the temperatures in the homemade greenhouses himself.

ALL PHOTOS BY MADELYN SMITH | Photographer



Laughing Spirit Farm: a family affair

Madelyn Smith
Copy Editor

Blink and you may miss the tiny, sustainable farm 15 minutes off the highway in Saxapahaw.

Laughing Spirit Farm is located on an understated piece of land in owner Rob Tolbert's front and back yards, which are equipped with the necessary tools for the farm's commitment to sustainable growing practices.

The farm is truly a family operation. Tolbert, his wife Melissa and their two daughters, Ashlyn and Schuyler, help with daily tasks on the farm, which focuses less on commercial growing and more on organic small market farming.

Tolbert said he farms to have access to fresh, healthy food for his family, and he doesn't farm primarily for selling.

"I love simply growing things that taste good," Tolbert said. "And I love selling to people who eat my food with their families."

Plants are grown in the most natural way possible, without fertilizers, synthetic chemicals or fungicides. The soil is the basis for the healthy foods they grow, so Tolbert uses cover crops like clover, as well as natural plows, his chickens, to maintain soil health.

A sweeping view of the farm shows a few traditional rows of plants like beans, tomatoes and strawberries, with patches of freshly blooming flowers sprinkled throughout the yard and several man-made greenhouses constructed from recycled wood.

Then there's the unconventional parts of the farm - the hidden patch of artichokes growing underground, the beehives caked with wax that will be used for candles, the pen of chickens with two ducks that seem a little out of place.

"They sometimes think they're the roosters," Ashlyn said.

The family's two dogs, Tessie and Clover, also act as unofficial herding dogs for the chickens that provide playmates for Ashlyn and Schuyler, who seem to know as much about the farm as their father does.

The beginnings of Laughing Spirit Farm

Tolbert was raised on a farm near Greenville, S.C., before moving to Travelers Rest. He wasn't exposed to much of the farming process until he attended the College of Charleston, when he took the opportunity to live on Parris Island near Beaufort, S.C.

He was able to pay low rent while living and studying on the island by himself, and learned a lot about living off the land.

After graduating from the College of Charleston with a major in English, Tolbert received his Master's degree in Teaching in Special Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

After marrying Melissa, Tolbert became involved in a smaller urban farm called Aimless Farm.

"It started out more commercial," he said. "When my Ashlyn was six months old and starting to eat solid food, I took her to a farm one day and tried some of the things they were growing. I recognized the importance of providing the healthiest food possible for her."

Tolbert said he enjoyed farming, but eventually felt it was time to move on to a

less commercial type of farming, a smaller operation that would grow for a food source rather than for mass product.

In 2008, after an unofficial brainstorming session, his wife came up with the name Laughing Spirit Farm, which Tolbert said embodied the type of environment in which they wanted to run a farm.

"The name keeps us guided," he said. "And the farm is 100 percent a family affair. We always wanted that."

From raspberries to shiitakes

Tolbert grows a non-traditional mix of plants and food that aren't usually found in the central region of North Carolina.

"We essentially have a conglomeration, a montage of anything we can grow," he said. "We grow what people usually don't, and we're kind of stubborn about that."

Given North Carolina's history of unexpected temperature drops and unpredictable weather, many farms in the area stay away from crops that rely heavily on weather.

Tolbert welcomes the challenge of growing plants, such as raspberries and strawberries, and he relies on trial and error to determine the best way to grow these plants.

Down a short path to the woods in Tolbert's backyard, a dozen piles of wood are stacked Lincoln Log style with special wax coating and plugs. This is where Tolbert grows shiitake mushrooms. Tolbert and his family do not eat meat, so the mushrooms are an ideal meat substitute.

"We try to grow things like shiitakes and edamame beans because they taste good but also because of their other great qualities," he said. "They have a lot of anti-cancer properties."

Organic farming for the future

Tolbert said recent United Nations research on the future of farming said that industrial agriculture alone cannot sustain the food needs of the world.

"Smaller market farms, the local farms, will be the real providers," he said. "When I go to a more traditional farm, it's so obvious that when you have more production, you need more unnecessary chemicals."

Laughing Spirit Farm illustrates Tolbert's commitment to "pure" food that is edible and wholesome for his family.

"A lot underlies what we do and grow," he said. "Food and medical matters go hand in hand. If you don't eat right, you're not healthy. Food is important to family and to mental health, so we love providing people with access to healthy options."

Laughing Spirit Farm sells produce on Wednesdays at the Carrboro Farmers' Market. Many times, Tolbert brings the whole family to help out at the stand.

MORE ONLINE: STYLE

VIDEO:
Take a trip
to Laughing
Spirit Farm
by heading
online.



JACK DODSON | Multimedia Editor

<http://bit.ly/TPOfarm>

BOOK REVIEW

★★★★☆

More than 13 reasons to pick up this book

Kit Arbuckle
Reviewer

Clay Jensen's classmate and crush, Hannah Baker, committed suicide. Two weeks after she took the pills that ended her life, he finds a package leaning against his front door. It contains seven cassette tapes. When he plays them, Hannah's voice comes out of the stereo and tells him that he is one of the 13 reasons why she killed herself.

There are only two rules: listen to the tapes, and pass them on to the next person on the list. If you don't, a second set will be released to the public.

Jay Asher's debut novel combines the narratives of Hannah's tapes and Clay's reactions to them as he follows the instructions she left behind. As he listens, he finds out the truth not only about Hannah and the other people on the tapes, but the truth about himself.

Emotionally, it's a difficult read. Like Clay, the reader is thrown into the world of a girl falling apart at her ragdoll seams. Clay can't stop listening, and the reader can't stop reading. The snowball effect of actions and assumptions that lead

to Hannah's death changes the way Clay perceives the world, and constantly changes the way the reader feels about Hannah, Clay and the other characters who punctuate the story. It's a stormy mystery that brews and stews until, by the last story on the tapes, it becomes a towering thunderhead of grief and frustration. It's up to Clay to determine if there will ever be a chance for the sun to shine again.

Intellectually, it's an important book. There has never been an author to handle teen suicide with as much candor and deference as Asher, especially not in the genre of young adult fiction.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15-24-year-olds and the fourth leading cause of death for 10-14-year-olds, according to the Center for Disease Control.

The reasons behind Hannah's suicide are very human, grounded in person-to-person interactions. In her narrative, she said the local news probably wouldn't report her suicide if it didn't occur publicly, because she's a juvenile. People would have been led to believe it was an accident.

Ultimately, Hannah's

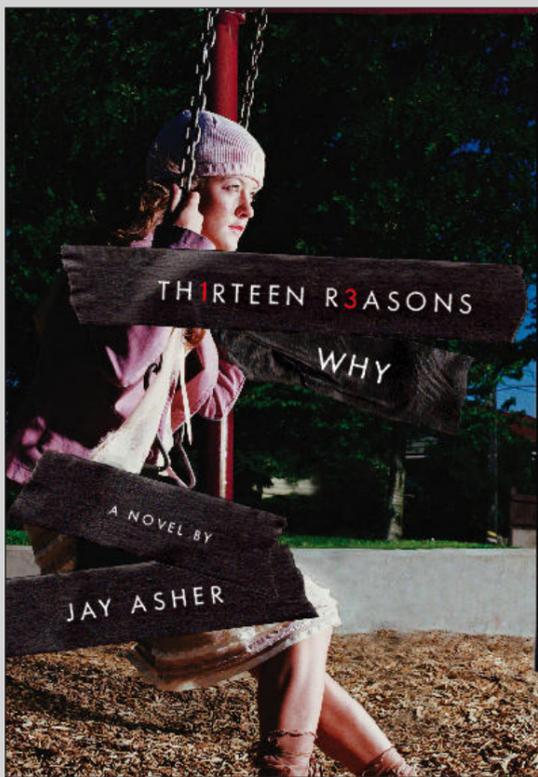


PHOTO COURTESY OF THIRTEENREASONSWHY.COM
"Thirteen Reasons Why" tackles the issue of suicide with candor and respect. The book is tough emotionally, but raises important issues.

last words awaken her listeners to the profound connectivity within her story. Every little thing, every action affects another. Clay follows Hannah in her agonizing tailspin as the cycle gets worse and worse, with no one there to interrupt it, not even him.

That is Asher's message: to not only

let yourself see that a person is in danger of suicide, but to meddle, interfere and try to help him or her until the cycle is interrupted.

Visit <http://www.thirteenreasonswhy.com> to learn more about the book, to listen to the tapes and to find other multimedia about Asher's novel.

FASHION COLUMN

Fashion don'ts that become do's



Alexandra Johnston
Fashion Columnist

Trends come and go, but sometimes trends come back in an unexpected way. Take a look at these former don'ts — maybe they deserve a second chance?

Socks and sandals

Formerly just for nerds, socks and sandals have been making a debut on the runway the past few seasons. It isn't the typical flat Velcro strap sandal with white tube sock, of course, as that look will never be in style, but a much more tasteful version. This look begins with a tall-heeled sandal, usually a wedge or something with a chunky heel. The straps need to be fairly wide and strapped in an X pattern on the toe with an additional strap or two around the ankle. In the fall, these sandals are great paired with a thick knit sock that bunches right above the top straps of the shoe. In the spring, a light lace sock pulled tight can be a pleasing look. Try this with great tapered trousers for a great vintage inspired look.

Black and blue

Another misinterpreted fashion faux pas is mixing black and navy. There is no reason that these two colors cannot be worn together if executed correctly. Both of these colors go great with cream, brown, beige and white, resulting in elegant outfits. An easy way to start this trend is to look for a piece that already incorporates these colors, such as a great dark printed dress or a navy and black striped shirt. The only time navy and black won't work together is when a plain navy shirt is worn with black pants.

Mixing metals

Traditionally, mixing metals was a big no, and bracelets, earrings and necklaces always needed to match. Today, this is not true. Not only are many jewelry designers choosing to mix metals in the same piece, but layering different pieces is becoming popular as well. The key to this trend is to mix different textures and length. Try getting necklaces in different lengths, styles and metal types to wear together. Thicker chains with adornments are usually best suited for this look and should definitely be a statement piece. Another easy way to incorporate both metals is by wearing many gold and silver bangles together. It gives a great bohemian look when worn with a great floral printed dress or top.

Shoulder pads and elastic waists

This may scream grandmother right away, but don't be afraid, these two extreme choices can actually be fashionable. While commonly associated with '80s clothing, shoulder pads have been in and out of the style scene for the last few hundred years. The allure of shoulder pads is that they enhance the width of the shoulders, making the waist look smaller. A tailored blazer with light shoulder pads is great worn with skinny jeans and heels because it creates a great inverted triangle shape. Of course, shoulder pads should not be abused or worn in pieces with obnoxious prints or shapes, but with classic pieces, they can be a huge advantage. Another former don't is elastic waistbands. Recently, they have become the former horror that designers secretly love. Stella McCartney, among others, has begun designing glorified sweatpants that hide the elastic comfort waistbands. Be on the lookout for this stylist comfort; it really is the best of both worlds.

Just because a trend has a bad connotation doesn't mean it can't receive redemption the second time around. Take a chance and revive a former don't.

WSOE CD REVIEW

★★★★☆

Prolific North Carolina band releases occult, cryptic album

Hunter Ertel
Reviewer

The dark mystical altars foretelling the wishes of the beings in the stars above are not unknown to The Mountain Goats.

Its lead singer and only static band member John Darnielle has a well-documented interest in the darker aspects of the occult and the mind. Before songwriting, Darnielle was a nurse in a psychiatric ward, which surely has given him insight into the potential weight of the mind.

In his most recent album, "All Eternals Deck," Darnielle's mystical cryptic symbols of lyrics are still in full swing. Perhaps one of the most prolific songwriters of our day (Along with studio albums, cassettes, EPs, splits compilations, and unreleased albums, "All Eternals Deck" will be The Mountain Goats' 48th musical release), Darnielle is known for themes that span the years and weave in and out of albums. While old fans may be sad to see that such series are a thing of the past, there is still a faint shimmer of what once was. "Birth of Serpents" brings up some of the same imagery as his earlier Quatzequatel series, and "Estate Sale Sign" could easily find a home among the Alpha collection of songs, with two young lovers are building an altar in secret to rekindle their love. For a devout vegetarian who has done animal rights benefit concerts, Darnielle is not above describing the gore and suffering that is part of life. His love of the dark occult and pagan imagery continues to be evident on this newest release.

"If you have ever watched,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN-GOATS.COM
Songwriter John Darnielle and his band, The Mountain Goats, have released their 48th effort this year, "All Eternals Deck." Darnielle was called one of the greatest lyricists of all time by The New Yorker.

say, a 70s occult-scary movie where one of the scenes involves a few people visiting a storefront fortune teller, getting their cards read, and then trying to feel super-hopeful about their predicted outcome when what they're visibly actually feeling is dread, then you have a pretty decent idea of what the album is all about," he said in an interview with TinyMixtapes.com.

Stylistically, this new album sounds much like their last release, "The Life in the World to Come." It's mellower and more focused than the rambling paranoid "Heretic Pride" and more well produced than the mass quantities of pre-Tallahassee lo-fi four track recordings. Although his style is nothing like it, The

Mountain Goats borrow a good deal of imagery and emotional heaviness from the metal scene, particularly Scandinavian black metal bands. This has led to Erik Rutan of the bands Morbid Angel and Hate Eternal to produce a number of songs on the album.

The man that has lived all over the country had seemingly finally found a home, and by chance it's good old North Carolina. Darnielle moved to Durham a few years back, and now he is releasing his first album on Merge, a North Carolina record label. His next tour will feature two shows in North Carolina, and he is touring with local band Megafaun. Fans will be able to catch their next show April 8th at Cat's Cradle in Carrboro.



Shannon Marshall Castro and her daughter, Cherokee, live close enough to Elon's campus to be able to pay visits to father and husband, Paul Castro, who teaches screenwriting and cinema production classes at the university. Shannon also takes spanish classes at El Centro at Elon.



A mom, a wife, an actress and a black belt

Shannon Marshall Castro plays many roles

Gabriela Szewcow
Design Chief

You'll rarely see Shannon Marshall Castro without her 19-month-year-old daughter, Cherokee, resting on her hip. But she hasn't assumed this stereotypical motherly task for long.

She just turned 40 this past year but most people assume she's much younger. Assumptions have landed her into some interesting situations in her career as an actress, ranging from amusing to devastating.

Once while she was shooting a commercial in a middle school, the school principal reprimanded her for being in the halls during class.

"I told him I was there with the shoot, and he didn't believe me," she said.

Castro is the wife of visiting professor of communications, Paul Castro. The two met while living in Los Angeles, got married, had Cherokee and earlier this year, relocated to North Carolina.

At 26, Castro worked as a waitress at the Broadway Deli, and Paul lived above the diner. Inevitably, the two became friends.

"We always had chemistry but we never acted on it because he was dating someone and lived with her above the diner," Castro said.

The two knew each other for a few years before anything romantic happened between them.

One day, Paul stopped into the diner to chat with Shannon at the hostess stand. At this point, Shannon knew that he and his former flame were no longer together. He told her he was about to go pack for a family trip to Maine. A few hours later, she saw him putting his bags into a car outside of the diner. He popped inside to say goodbye to someone, but Shannon didn't think it would be her.

Castro didn't expect that her feelings for Paul would be reciprocated.

"He came in and said he wanted to say goodbye to an amazing girl," she said. "So I looked around, wondering who he was talking about. Then he kissed me and he left."

While Paul was gone, she broke her ankle and was unable to work at the diner for three months. In July, she returned to the diner and ran into Paul. He asked her to get a drink after work, and she agreed.

"I told my roommate about him and that I thought he was just a player," Castro said.

They went to a bar, and Paul apologized for the kiss, saying that he thought she didn't like it. Shannon told him that she was surprised, but she didn't dislike the gesture. Shannon was supposed to go out with friends that night, and she convinced Paul to tag along.

"He kissed me on the dance floor, and

I thought, 'OK, this is going well,'" she said.

The following day, a co-worker informed Shannon that Paul had dropped by and said that he would be back later. At the end of her shift, Shannon got into her car and found a card from Paul that read: "Shannon, you are to earth what angels are to heaven." He included his phone number in the card as well.

Paul's charm worked, because Shannon called him a few days later after a rehearsal.

"We went out on our first date on July 5, 1999" she said. "And he kept bringing up the flowers. He asked why I never thanked him for the flowers."

To her knowledge Shannon had never received flowers from Paul.

But it turns out that someone broke into her car, left the card but stole the roses he got her to go with it.

"Luckily they didn't steal the car, and they just stole the roses," she said. "Or else I never would have called him or known he had gotten me anything."

The couple has been together ever since. They were married in September 2002 and gave birth to a baby girl on July 28, 2009. Soon after they had Cherokee, they picked up and moved to North Carolina.

"I never thought I would leave LA," Castro admitted. "I'm a California girl. I lived there for 18 years."

She made the move from Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles in 1992, right after she graduated from Howard University with a degree in marketing. She put those skills to use working for a computer company in Los Angeles.

"My major was marketing, but I always had acting in the back of my mind," she said.

She always felt that she would end up in Los Angeles at some point. Her sister and her boyfriend at the time were both there, which gave her reason to relocate.

"I used to joke that my 'real' mother lived in California," she laughed. "And my mom would say, 'Well, I wish she would come get you, because I'm tired of footing all your bills.'"

Castro grew up in Annapolis, Maryland with two brothers and one sister. She was also fortunate enough to grow up in a great community in a great neighborhood, she said. As a child, she did some modeling and a lot of theater. It was the first kind of acting she got into. She and her mother are extremely close, she said. Her mother supported her decision to move out west.

"At that point, I thought I was going to be a big CEO of a company," Castro said.

"But I found out that I hated working in an office."

She started attending acting classes and took up photography.

"I knew I'd hate myself if I didn't try it," she said of her new, more artistic endeavors.

It worked out, because she landed her first commercial with Domino's Pizza, and the connections she made got her into the Screen Actor's Guild effortlessly. Castro learned that she enjoyed on-screen acting, but theater would always be her first love.

"It's so rewarding because it's instant," she said. "It's instant gratification. And if you mess up, you just keep going."

Castro has learned a lot about messing up and carrying on in her career.

"Acting is always up and down, up and down," she said.

Castro spent years in LA taking classes and going to auditions. Finally, she got her first big role in 2000 on the Disney Channel show, "Even Stevens." Castro was 29 years old at the time, and she was playing a 15-year-old girl.

She loved working on the show, and she was excited for every day on set. Her time was cut short, though, right before the show went on a hiatus. The makeup artist found out Castro was 29. The

entire cast and crew thought she was younger.

"Once everyone else found out, they said I was just too old for it," she said.

She was never called back, and she wasn't surprised. She learned a lot about the industry from her experience working with Disney.

"They see you in a box," she said. "And you can't let them see you outside of that box."

Castro said she believes that when casting directors and other people in the acting world see you outside of the box, things get messy and real.

She shouldn't have told them, and she took it out on herself. She was upset for a year, and it showed.

"I wasn't getting any parts because I was desperate and casting directors could sense that," she said.

Castro knew she had to take responsibility for herself and pick herself up after falling down.

She got that pick-me-up in 2003, when she auditioned for a role on "The West Wing." Paul intercepted a voicemail from her agent informing her of an audition she had in two hours. Paul quickly got a hold of Shannon and she ran home to change and make it to her audition on

time. She showed up to the audition a little frazzled, but she still landed the part. The director even let her redo the one line she had to deliver for the audition, which she butchered on the first try.

"I screwed up the line, then just started laughing," she said. "I was like, 'That was really bad, wasn't it?' and (the casting director) agreed."

Castro thought there was no way she would get a call back, but she did. She was so excited to land a bigger part. After two episodes with what she called a fun and exhilarating cast, another hiatus came up.

"Me and hiatuses don't really seem to work out," she laughed.

Again, the situation was out of her control. Castro was supposed to do nine episodes with "The West Wing," but right before the show went on hiatus, executive producer Aaron Sorkin's career was plagued by drug use. He quit the show and Castro was never called back after her first two episodes.

Because her experience with "The West Wing" mirrored that of "Even Stevens," Castro was out of luck.

"Both were big shows and I got on board right before the shows went on hiatus," she said. "So I couldn't capitalize on being on the shows like I really wanted to once they were over for the summer."

Castro has yet to land a bigger gig than "Even Stevens" or "The West Wing," but she fills her time with other things that she is passionate about.

"My two passions are Krav Maga and acting," she said. "Besides my little baby and Paul, of course."

Krav Maga is Israeli army self defense. Castro is one of seven female black belts in the United States, of about 80 total in the country.

"I took a class one time in 2001 and I just became addicted to it," she said. "And I was asked to be an instructor in LA."

Luckily when Castro moved to North Carolina, she was able to keep up with her training. She found a Krav Maga studio in Charlotte where she teaches classes two or three times a week. Castro wants to start teaching classes at Elon.

"I think it's really important for women to learn how to defend themselves," she said.

As far as acting in North Carolina, Castro is still trying to catch her break. There is a surprisingly big market here, she said, especially in Charlotte. Right now, she is just looking and waiting for an audition.

Incidentally, her agent in LA called her just as they were settling into North Carolina.

"He said I'll always have him in LA to help me out, so I can call him if I ever end up back out there, which is one more thing I'm thankful for," she said.

Keeping up with an Elon alum { Cornelius Muller }

From basketball star to director, alumnus releases faith-based film

Libby Dean
Reporter

For Cornelius Muller, one date will always stand out to him: March 24, 1993. That was the day he received a letter from the NBA expressing interest in drafting him on his birthday, no less.

Now, he will have another day that will undoubtedly be of great importance to his life: April 30, 2011. That will be the day his film "Brother's Keeper" will premiere at The Lamb's Chapel in Haw River.

A star basketball player at Elon, Muller was one of six small-school basketball players in the country that the NBA expressed interest in drafting. He was one of a handful of players to score 1,000 points at Elon in two years instead of four, after he transferred from Western Carolina University. He was also voted Player of the Year in his hometown of Brooklyn, N.Y. After graduating, he embarked on a series of short basketball tours in Europe, dabbling on teams in England, France and Puerto Rico.

"I'm a big sports fan, and I used to watch Cornelius play when he played for Elon," said Dick Shirley, owner of Dick Shirley Automotive in Burlington and close friend and mentor to Muller.

Shirley said he was always impressed by Muller's talent.

"He was some kind of amazing," Shirley said. "He only played for two years and the whole time he was so smooth and he was such a class act."

Despite Muller's basketball prowess, the NBA dream did not come to fruition and Muller returned back to the United States, disillusioned and a bit disheartened.

"After the NBA fell apart, I felt discouraged and depressed and that I let people down," Muller said. "Everyone had such big hopes for me. I had big hopes for me," Muller said. "When I returned after the basketball tours, that was when my life started to change directions."

Muller said he had always been interested in acting, but it wasn't until he put his basketball aspirations on hold that he began to pursue acting seriously. He said one movie in particular inspired him: "Jerry Maguire."

"That was when the bell went off for me," Muller said. "I realized I could make a career out of acting."

Muller enrolled in numerous acting workshops and classes throughout New York and North Carolina. He met and befriended Burgess Jenkins, a veteran actor and North Carolina native best known for his role as Ray Budds in Walt Disney's 2000 movie "Remember the Titans." Jenkins instructs Carolina Actors Group, a training program centered in Winston-Salem, and provided guidance to Muller with his acting aspirations.

Muller embarked on several other entrepreneurial endeavors such as working at a bank and launching his own real estate company, CM Enterprise Group, production company, Cornelius Muller Productions and sports training facility, X-Plosion, located in Burlington.

"Cornelius has very good business instincts, but more importantly he has good instincts about people," Shirley said. "He makes good choices with the people he surrounds himself with. He has tremendous character and is an outstanding person."

Muller said Shirley played a pivotal role for him as a friend and mentor throughout his business pursuits. Muller and Shirley met on a personal level after playing basketball together at the Burlington YMCA. Shirley said Muller approached him with business ideas and would bounce ideas off of him.

"Dick Shirley has been like a father figure, mentor, adviser and friend to me," Muller said. "He was the first one that made me feel that I could do anything I set my mind to. A lot of times people have dreams and never do anything about them; he was the first one who showed me how to put these dreams and aspirations into action."

Muller began writing the script to "Brother's Keeper" in 2009, using the guidance of established writers Ben Schneider and Mary Wilson. Muller wrote, directed, produced and starred in the film, which is about one man's path of redemption and forgiveness.

Connie Book, assistant professor of communications and associate provost at Elon, played a key role in the making of the film. Book was a friend and mentor to Muller and supported him through the filmmaking process.

"Cornelius has this magnetic personality that people gravitate to," Book said. "The way the Elon and Burlington community rallied behind him with the making of 'Brother's Keeper' is amazing."

Book introduced Muller to Nneka Enurah, an Elon student she believed would be interested in helping with the project. Enurah worked as an independent contractor, helping Muller with the production side of the film.

"With the making of the film, we faced obstacles and challenges and I believe we overcame them and made a great film," Enurah said. "It's rare to find those films that tear at the heartstrings and really mean something and impact the lives of others, and 'Brother's Keeper' is one of those films."

The Elon and Burlington community have both left their mark on the film. Elon University lent its facilities and equipment to Muller, which he said was incredibly beneficial. Elon students served on the crew and as extras in



the film, Enurah said. Book's husband, Dewayne Book, contributed to the score.

After the screening of "Brother's Keeper" April 30, Muller said he plans to enter the film into the film festival circuit and has plans to enter it into Sundance Film Festival as a short film.

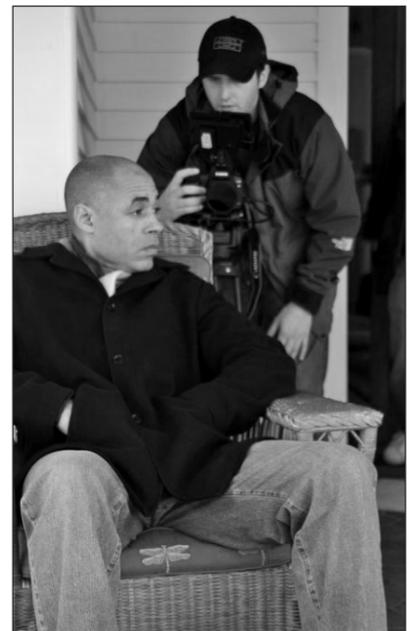
"'Brother's Keeper' is powerful for it to get recognition nationwide," Muller said. "It's a faith-based film, but it appeals to universal concepts of love, relationships and forgiveness and everyone is able to identify with it."

Muller said the process has been inspirational for him.

"The best part of the whole process for me was watching Cornelius watch the playback of the footage we just shot," Enurah said. "Seeing his face as he watched his dream become a reality was amazing."

Ever the athlete, Muller said the screening of "Brother's Keeper" will be comparable to a basketball game.

"When you make a great play in basketball and the crowd stands up and cheers, there's nothing like it," Muller said. "And on April 30, after seeing this film, the crowd will stand up and cheer."



PHOTOS SUBMITTED
Top right: Cornelius Muller works with the actors in his film "Brother's Keeper."
Bottom right: The film will be screen April 30.

Center for Leadership helps local youth develop sense of purpose

Sarah Carideo
Senior Reporter

The Center for Leadership has partnered with the Alamance Chamber of Commerce to host a summer leadership program for local students. The Alamance Youth Leadership Academy Summer Institute (AYLA) focuses on empowering middle school students through civic engagement and leadership development.

According to student coordinator Amber Mathis, middle school students were chosen as the target age group.

"They are at the point in their lives when they realize they can really make a difference," she said. "We are trying to set foundations with students who are mature but still developing, so that they can take all of the skills they learn with them to high school and beyond."

The program was started by Dean Rex Waters and began in the early 2000's as a way to reach out to middle school students and educate them on the importance of community building. It was originally called Leadership Turrentine, and partnered the Center for Leadership with Turrentine Middle School.

Today, the program has a formal partnership with the Alamance Chamber of Commerce and works with six local schools. Last year the program had 55 participants.

"AYLA reaches many more students and is affecting more schools in a positive way," Mathis said.

The schools are chosen to participate by either contacting the program directly, or through encouragement by the program to organize an AYLA group. Teachers then recommend students, who go through an application process. At some of the larger schools, this process becomes competitive.

Once enrolled, students participate in a three-day Summer Institute at Elon during mid-June.

Students then decide on three possible projects for ways to make positive

changes within their schools.

During the Institute, students learn about team building, effective communication, presenting skills, problem solving and developing core leadership skills.

"We want our participants to feel that they can make a change within the greater community and go on to make Alamance County a greater place as they will have made their individual schools a better place."

-AMBER MATHIS
STUDENT COORDINATOR OF
CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

will participate in various activities hosted by the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce.

"It's an important way for the Elon community to provide support for the future of the Burlington community," Mathis said.

The program needs facilitators

to guide the groups of students and is reaching out to Elon students for support.

"Becoming an AYLA facilitator is a wonderful opportunity for Elon students to practice their own leadership and facilitation skills," Mathis said. "Additionally, AYLA is really fun. The Elon student facilitators always become really invested in their group of participants and their project. It's a fun position to be in when you can see students grow in such a short amount of time."

Junior Lamar Lee, a past facilitator, agreed.

"It was such a fun time every day," he said. "They all chose to be in the program, so they were willing to work hard and do whatever was needed to be done each day."

He also said that it helped to develop his public speaking and facilitating skills because he was responsible for leading the kids throughout the entire day.

"Students should apply to be a facilitator because it is a great opportunity to work with bright young students that are in desperate need of mentors in order to excel academically and socially in school," Lee said.



FILE PHOTO BY COREY GROOM | Staff Photographer

The women's basketball team participated in their first-ever postseason tournament following their 19-12 season. The Phoenix participated in the Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI) matching up teams across Division I who do not qualify for the NCAA postseason tournament. Elon hosted the University of South Carolina-Upstate in its opening round matchup, and won 103-72. Ali Ford (above) scored a career-high 35 points in the opening round matchup, while making seven three-point field goals. In its second round matchup, the Phoenix fell to eventual WBI champion University of Alabama-Birmingham 59-50. With 20 wins on the season, the Phoenix won the most games in a season since the 1981-1982 season.

ONE ON ONE SPORTS

With a trip to Houston, has VCU justified its bubble selection?

Joey Accordino and Adam Lawson
Sports Commentators

Adam Lawson

Despite the fact that Virginia Commonwealth University is living out every underdog's dream and taking out power conference teams one by one, they still should have had no place in this tournament. They finished fourth in the Colonial Athletic Association. Shaka Smart can say "the world is against us" all he wants, and good for him in inspiring his team to go win five games and make it to Houston. But they lost to South Florida University. They got beat by University of Alabama at Birmingham, Georgia State University and Northeastern University. George Mason University humiliated them! They made the Final Four in a watered-down year of college basketball, and in the process made the NCAA look bad.

Joey Accordino

Every team in this tournament has proven they can lose, not just VCU. Butler University lost to Youngstown State University (a much worse team than Northeastern), and UNC-Chapel Hill lost to Georgia Tech by 20. And hey, fourth place in the Colonial isn't a bad place to be: George Mason went to the Final Four after finishing fourth in the CAA in 2004. Your notion that VCU is making the NCAA look bad is a joke. You think the NCAA minds VCU being the cover story of countless magazines and newspapers? After the Kansas victory, the VCU Rams and coach Shaka Smart clearly belong in this tournament. They're proving it with every big win.

Adam

I'm sorry but where was that win against Kansas in the regular season? And yes any team can prove they can lose, but UNC beat Duke University and the University of Kentucky. If you are arguing they shouldn't have been in the dance I don't know what to say. The point is VCU didn't beat anybody. And this isn't George Mason. If you will remember correctly, the Patriots embarrassed themselves when they made the Final Four a couple of years back. Butler - VCU. I'm sure that's the Final Four matchup the NCAA was praying for.

Joey

Nobody is arguing that Carolina shouldn't be in the tournament. Rather, good teams can suffer bad losses. Carolina and VCU are both examples of that. Moreover, VCU beat UCLA in the regular season, one of the best out of conference wins by a mid-major team this season. And don't knock George Mason. Before VCU, they were the first 11 seed to get to the Final Four in 20 years (and the second ever). You need to redefine your definition of embarrassment. Finally, March Madness is all about the Cinderellas. The NCAA loves VCU's success, and fans around the country do too. VCU, the slipper still fits. Keep on dancing.

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Phoenix baseball stands atop Southern Conference

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

The Elon University baseball team extended its Southern Conference winning streak to seven games last Friday, rallying from a 7-1 deficit in the opening game to win 10-8. Then came Saturday's debacle in the series against the Samford University Bulldogs.

In an abrupt end to the Phoenix's undefeated start to conference play, the team mustered just two hits in an 11-0 loss. Samford junior pitcher Lex Rutledge struck out 13 in seven innings of work, allowing just three walks.

But Elon bounced back in the Sunday finale, earning a 4-2 victory on the strength of a three-run home run by junior infielder Garrett Koster and seven innings of strong work from senior pitcher Jared Kernodle.

"We wish we could have swept them, but we'll take two out of three and try to win every series from here on out," Kernodle said. "I think that will set us up in a good position to win (the conference) again."

The Phoenix improved to 17-9 overall and 8-1 in the SoCon. The Bulldogs, at 6-3 in the conference, were dropped into a tie for second with Georgia Southern University and UNC Greensboro.

After Sunday's game,

Koster said earning the series victory could show other teams in the conference that Elon is the team to beat.

"I think we made a statement today that we are the better team," Koster said. "(Saturday) was a fluke and we came out here (Sunday) and got the job done."

The next task for the Phoenix is a one-game road trip to East Carolina University Wednesday,

which gives the team a chance for redemption. Earlier this season, the Phoenix dropped a 4-3 decision in 10 innings to the Pirates.

In that loss, the game-winning run was scored on a wild pitch in the top of the 10th inning.

"We need a big mid-week win," Kernodle said. "It would be nice to go to ECU and take one."

He added that the team has not been successful when traveling east in the past, as the team has lost the past three games in Greenville, N.C., by a combined 41-7 score.

Head coach Mike Kennedy said that while the team's energy level was at a low point in Saturday's loss, it was back to where it should have been Sunday. He added that the energy level to play the Pirates should also be high.

"It's always a fun time playing ECU, it's a great program and they have great guys," Kennedy said. "We'll be ready for that one, as well."

After Wednesday's contest,



Senior Ken Ferrer leads the Phoenix with 35.2 innings pitched this season and 29 batters struck out. Ferrer is 3-1 with a 3.79 ERA.

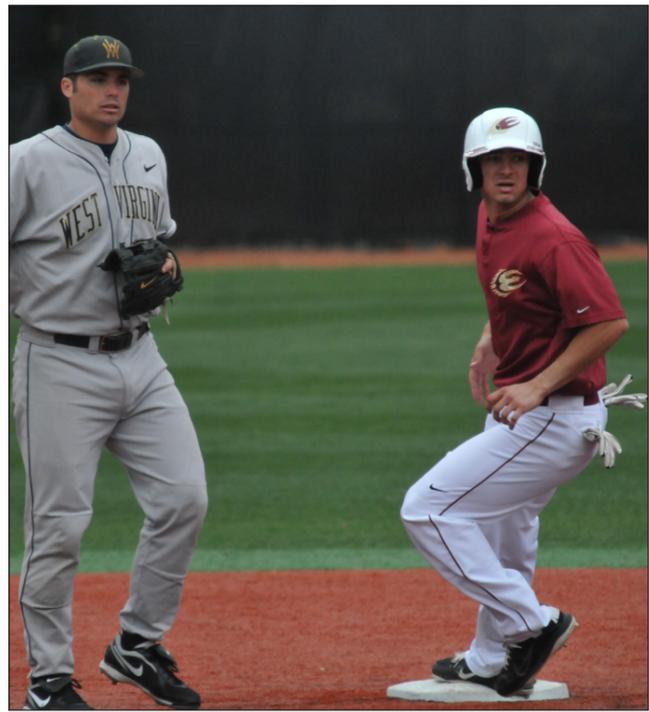
the Phoenix moves back into SoCon play with a three-game weekend series against UNC Greensboro. The Spartans hold a 14-8 overall record to go along with their 6-3 SoCon mark.

Last season, the Phoenix swept UNCG in its trip down I-40, gaining wins to the tune of 17-10, 12-1 and 19-5.

"We owe (ECU) one, so it would be a big help to go into the weekend against UNCG," Koster said of the perspective of ending the season series with a win against the Pirates.

Kernodle also pointed out how important a victory against ECU would be if the team is unable to seal up an automatic bid with a SoCon conference championship.

"Wins like that put us in a regional," Kernodle said. "If we win our conference then so what, but if we end with 36 wins or something and we have wins over teams like South Florida and NC State, those wins will punch a ticket for you."



Senior infielder Neal Pritchard leads the Phoenix with a .505 on base percentage.

Elon mascot searches for new identity



Name The Phoenix!
Voting is open until
April 15th!

MARK CAPOZZOLA | Graphics Editor

Edith Veremu
Copy Editor

What do you do when children are calling out "Phoenix! Phoenix!" and you can't tell if they are calling your mascot or simply cheering for your team?

You come up with the idea of naming your mascot.

When Elon College became Elon University and changed its mascot from the Fighting Christians to the Phoenix in 2001, it did not give its mascot an official name. Now, 10 years later, the Athletics Department has decided to give fans of the Phoenix the chance to name it by hosting a campus-wide campaign.

The initiative was launched and announced March 15 at the Elon and East Carolina University baseball game. The naming of the Phoenix campaign is just another way for fans to connect to their mascot.

"Ten years ago, mascots weren't as big and branded," said Michael Jacobs, assistant athletic director for marketing and ticket operations. "Now, mascots are more of a big deal. Branding creates a connection."

The Phoenix, a gender-neutral mascot, is Capital One All-American certified and attends several mascot camps

in the summer.

Although the campaign only recently began, it has become popular within the student body. Within 24 hours, there were more than 1,500 online submissions, according to Jacobs.

"We're hoping to get 20,000 hits, and getting this much is great, I'm amazed at how fast the students responded," Jacobs said.

The campaign, Jacobs said, is part of the department's plan to get more recognition as well as to build a network around Phoenix fans, more school spirit and a home field advantage.

Along with submissions, students have also voiced their opinions on the campaign and appreciate the department wanting to hear their opinions.

"It's great they're giving us the chance to name it," freshman Lauren Kepke said.

Another student agrees that the campaign will give Elon a more memorable presence at games.

"It'll give the mascot a little bit more personality and would be good publicity for Elon," junior Elli Broujos said.

The campaign is open to all Phoenix fans, including students, faculty, staff and alumni. By using social media and traditional print media,

the campaign will ensure that everyone's voice is heard, Jacobs said.

"Whatever we're doing to get students to participate is going well," Jacobs said.

In a press release dated March 28, Elon Athletics released the top 20 names submitted with those names including Ashes, Blaize, Felix, Paco and Pheeny.

Kepke, an avid Phoenix fan who has attended almost all of the home and away games, said she believes that only people with name suggestions will send submissions and the rest of the student body will vote.

"People go to the games to see the athletes play," Kepke said. "They don't go for the mascot, although (the campaign) will increase school spirit and make us more marketable."

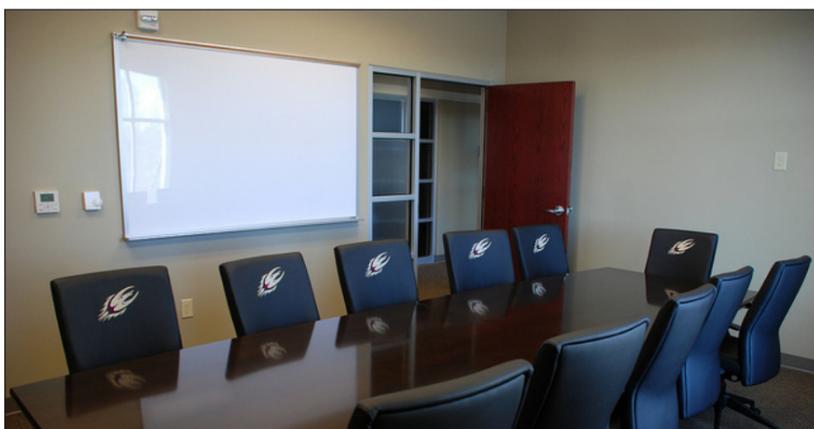
Until April 15, fans can submit names online and at ballot boxes, which are located all across campus. The top five names will be announced April 16, at the spring football game, until which students will vote on the choices. In May, the name will be revealed.

"People definitely know about it," Broujos said. "It's typical of Elon to do new things and to get people excited."

Sports



The newly dedicated, 30,000-square-foot Alumni Field House sits at the north end of Rhodes Stadium. Alumni Field House houses seven varsity sports and includes the Hendrickson Football Center. COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS



The Field House allows room for coaches and players alike to have shared meeting spaces. COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Jordan Scahill
Reporter

When Elon transitioned to Division I athletics, students may be surprised at how much the program has expanded in 11 years.

Now known as the Elon Phoenix, the athletic facilities have grown with the opening of a brand new, 30,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art field house on the north end of Rhodes Stadium.

In honor of Elon alumni and as a thank you to benefactors for their generous contributions to the athletic programs, the facility has been named Alumni Field House.

"At Elon, everything we commit to across the university is done with excellence," said Elon Athletic Director Dave Blank. "Athletics is a part of that commitment."

In November 2009, workers broke ground and began the building process on the field house. The construction took 13 months to complete. It finished on schedule in December 2010, just in time for the first weekend of recruiting.

The field house is a multi-purpose facility built not only for the football program, but also for all other sports in the vicinity of the field. The track and field, cross country, men's and women's soccer, baseball and softball teams will also take advantage of Alumni Field House.

"It is an absolutely beautiful, state-of-the-art facility that we plan on using to its full potential," said head football coach Jason Swepton.

The first floor of Alumni Field House contains Hendrickson Football Center, which will allow the football team to have its own locker room and training rooms, strength and conditioning rooms and meeting area all under the same roof.

In years past, the football team met in different locations around campus depending on availability and space. That problem will be solved this year.

"The brand new facility will allow us to teach student athletes with the latest technology," Swepton said. "We want to be bigger, better, faster and smarter. This building will allow us to reach those goals." The second floor of Alumni Field House



A new weight room featured in Alumni Field House is available for athletes to train off of the field. COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

includes the Walker Room and Terrace with a great view of Rhodes Stadium. There is also a large team meeting room, a space for athletes to study, conference rooms and an office for each coach.

"Our athletic facilities parallel the progress of the campus at large," Blank said. "We aim to accommodate students' college experiences and also create a great experience for our current athletes."

The football team completely moved into the new facility Jan. 12, just two days after the announcement of Swepton as the Phoenix's new head coach.

The university is always renovating and staying competitive with other schools in attracting new students. In the past five years alone, Elon has expanded its campus by building Koury Business Center, Lindner Hall, several new Greek houses and a renovated Alumni Gym.

Alumni Field House adds to the growth of Elon's campus and provides a brand new facility for seven Phoenix teams.

The building will be dedicated in front of Phoenix fans before the annual spring football game April 16.

BY THE NUMBERS

30,000 SQUARE FEET

13 MONTHS TAKEN TO COMPLETE FIELD HOUSE

7 ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN ALUMNI FIELD HOUSE

MORE ONLINE SPORTS

VIDEO:
Field House
Explore the inside of the new field house and meet the people who made it happen.

<http://bit.ly/TPOfieldhouse>

ZACHARY HORNER | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR